

Egypt to detain Israeli for 45 days

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's detention of an Israeli Druze charged with spying for Israel was extended Monday for 45 days by the high state security court prosecutors, a judicial source said. According to the lawyer for Azzam Azzam, the Israeli embassy in Cairo said it was ready to pay any bail which the prosecutors set to get him released but the high court decided to keep him in prison because it has irrefutable evidence, the source added. The source also said Azzam denied "all the charges against him and which are based on the confessions of his Egyptian co-defendant who said he (Azzam) provided invisible ink and spying equipment." The Israeli consul in Egypt, Joshua Gabbay, met Azzam Sunday in Tora prison south of Cairo to see whether he was being treated well during his detention. Azzam, who was employed in Cairo by the Israeli textile company Tifon, was arrested Nov. 6.

Jordan Times

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U.N. wants remains of Iraqi Scuds for study

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations plans to take the remains of missiles for study outside Iraq to help assess Baghdad's claims that all Scuds have been destroyed, a senior U.N. official said on Monday. Goran R. Wallen, head of the Baghdad office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) overseeing the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq has maintained it destroyed the banned Scuds in 1991. The commission has called on Baghdad to prove the missiles were destroyed. Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. commission chief, said last week Iraq was still concealing as many as 16 missiles. "We are excavating the (Scud) missiles, bringing them from sites where Iraq said it had destroyed them to Baghdad," Mr. Wallen told Reuters.

King receives congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a cable of congratulations from Sultan Hassan Bolika on the occasion of his 61st birthday, which was celebrated in his cable, the sultan wished the King continued good health and happiness. The Jordanian people are Lombard from further progress and positional Center. King Hussein also entific Research eived at the Royal site, the team eived, Public Security year found around pament (PSD) Direc- ed-clay tablets e-General Nasouh Akkeiddin and senior PSD Akkadid, the uff who congratulated ing on his birthday. The Middle East in the 1 millennium efence Department rist.

King meets university founders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Monday at the yal Court a delegation representing the founding givers of the proposed merican University in rdan. Attending the eeting were Royal Court chief Awn Khasawneh and rmer minister Adnan Abu Deh.

Arabia says wants to reserve GCC unity

YADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia said Monday it is one of the sources determined to preserve the GCC's cohesiveness manian airline spite Bahrain's vow to airport decided oycott next month's GCC them up at a summit in Qatar. Saudi iting for the Fahd said at the resolved. The weekly cabinet meeting ginally scheduled e that his country, which for Bucharest ads the GCC, was determined to preserve the ity in the ranks" of the nity group, despite the enson between Bahrain ad summit host Qatar over eir decades-long territori- dispute, according to the Official Spa news agency.

alestinian says israel bans travel

AZA (R) — A leading alestinian human rights ivist said on Monday had banned him from well to Norway for fference on "citizenship of the state in the Middle East."
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UNITED NATIONS (AFP)
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King hails Jordan's status as non-NATO ally of U.S.

HM, in letter to Kabariti, underlines Kingdom's quest for interaction with regional and international groupings to ensure stability and development

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday hailed the recent U.S. decision to grant Jordan the status of a non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally and described it as the result of persistent Jordanian efforts for interaction with regional and international groupings.

The King, in a letter sent to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, noted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was leading the Jordanian efforts and paid tribute to the Crown Prince as "the subject of our confidence and source of comfort."

The King said the American decision to grant Jordan the status of a non-NATO ally was the materialisation of the Kingdom's "intentions and desires to communicate

and interact with the grouping of the North Atlantic states" and said it gave the Jordanian Armed Forces the rank it deserved.

Jordan's moves to seek interaction with regional and international blocs stemmed from its realisation of the changes in the concepts of peace and security and the resulting interdependence to secure stability and achieve development, the King said.

Jordan plans to seek advanced technology, equipment, page 12

Following is the text of the King's letter to the prime minister as provided to the Jordan Times by the Jordan News Agency, Petra: "It gives us pleasure to convey to our government another success of the Jordanian efforts aiming at building the bridges of civilised dialogue with the influential international groupings in today's world, in an attempt to emphasise the civilised role that Jordan has been assuming throughout its long history."

"We have assigned to our Crown Prince Al Hassan, the subject of our confidence and source of comfort, the task of exploring the potentials of constructive bilateral interaction with the regional and international groupings as we realise the dynamic change and qualitative transformation in the concepts of peace and security in a world witnessing the interactive dependence to secure the requirements of the stability of states and the development of peoples."

"We have been, throughout the past years, watching this dynamic change and the transformations ever since the initiation of the European efforts to lay the foundations for the economic cooperation among the European Community, followed by their efforts in the Helsinki conference for security and cooperation,



known today as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the recent conference in Barcelona that yielded the initiative for a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. "Throughout these developments and their impacts, Jordan has been exerting serious efforts to start dialogues with several international groupings, particularly with the European Community and its institutions, and we aimed to emphasise Jordan's role and its aspirations to interact with the world groupings and their civilisations. Doing this, we have established an active presence in several international forums in which we launched initiatives that yielded fruits. Outcomes have been the constructive inter-faith dialogue, the admission of Jordan as an observer in the

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, an associate member in the Atlantic-Mediterranean dialogue, and an active member in the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

"Jordan has been careful throughout these developments in emphasising its human role through participation in the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations that have taken on the challenge of maintaining peace in the areas of regional tension of the world. This has not been without a side benefit by which our Armed Forces had the chance to interact with its peers that participated in taking on these challenging tasks. "Jordan's role in laying the foundations of a just and durable peace in our region has been pronounced. Our Armed

Forces have been, throughout these years, the competent defender of our country, and the protector of its achievements. We have strived to provide them with its defence requirements to the maximum extent that our resources allowed.

"Our intents and desires to communicate and interact with the grouping of the North Atlantic states have now materialised. We are pleased that the fruits of our



(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti visits Karak, pledges priority for problems of south

Premier tells Karak residents he understands their difficulties, but the toughest part is over

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday paid his first visit to the city of Karak since the Aug. 16-17 riots and pledged that his government will do all it can to ensure that the reform process will achieve its goals of ensuring economic growth and better living standards for all Jordanians.

The prime minister, who visited Karak to take part in the governorate's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 61st birthday

which fell on Thursday, also warned that there are "some who try to impede the development process for different reasons which you all know."

"I would not have missed this dear opportunity to meet you" to celebrate the birthday of the King, Mr. Kabariti told a gathering at the Al Hussein Secondary Vocational School.

Conveying to the people of Karak the greetings of King Hussein, Mr. Kabariti said the King was determined to ensure a dignified and comfortable life to all citizens, especially those

who contributed to the building process in the early days of the Kingdom.

In what was seen as a reference to the demands of the Karak residents, Mr. Kabariti stressed that the government's efforts will focus on addressing the needs of those living in underprivileged areas. The southern region in general is poorer than other areas in the Kingdom, he noted.

Mr. Kabariti stressed the economic reform programme was inevitable for the Kingdom despite the suffering that it causes for people, "and some more than others."

"We are passing through a sensitive economic era which I can describe as a crossing point that will, God willing, lead us to the better. But I also know that everybody is suffering because this is a difficult period," the prime minister said.

"But I also know that the degree of suffering is not the same for all. There are groups that suffer more than others. There are areas that need help more than others and have priorities, especially areas of the south," Mr. Kabariti told the

residents of the town where riots erupted on Aug. 16-17 in protest against the government's decision to lift bread and fodder subsidies.

Even though the government blamed the riots on foreign elements, many political parties argued that the unrest came because the higher bread prices would bite harder in Karak and other southern areas where poverty was widespread.

The riots were dispersed after police and army units entered the city. King Hussein last week instructed the government to end legal procedures against all people suspected of being involved in the riots.

King Hussein visited Karak immediately after the riots and Mr. Kabariti accompanied the King on a recent visit to the neighbouring city of Aey.

Mr. Kabariti's visit to Karak came one day before the opening of the fourth and last ordinary session of 12th Parliament. The King's amnesty and other measures that the government has taken were expected to ease the tension

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Government open to discussing all aspects of 1993 election law

except one-person, one-vote Suggestions and arguments are too diverse and too many — Muasher

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is open to all suggestions and discussions on all aspects of the election law of 1993 except compromising on the one-person, one-vote formula that was introduced in 1993, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

Dr. Muasher, addressing a press briefing one day before the opening of the regular session of Parliament, also said that no consensus had emerged from numerous meetings with political parties and experts as well as lawmakers on how Jordanians perceived their electoral system and what exactly they wanted out of the election law.

"Some people suggest a redrawing of electoral districts while others want the constituencies retained as they are today," said the

minister. "Yet others insist that the number of constituencies be equal to the number of seats in the Lower House."

"We've also been hearing demands for the abolition of the quota of seats (for minorities) as well as for an additional quota for women," he added. "Others want two votes — a tribal vote and a non-tribal vote."

"The government has been in touch with political parties, members of Parliament, independent experts and institutions, and the suggestions have been too diverse and too many," said the minister.

"There is no general consensus over what exactly the people want out of the election law," Dr. Muasher said, adding that the government itself had not formulated any draft to replace the 1993 election law.

"However, the govern-

ment stands firm only on one point: There cannot be any change to the one-person, one-vote system that the 1993 law introduced," he said. "It is committed to ensuring that every voter who enters the polling booth casts his or her vote for only one candidate."

"The government is open for all suggestions and discussions on all other aspects of the 1993 law, including the redrawing of constituencies, electoral districts, quotas for minorities, women etc. etc.," he added. "But it will not entertain any suggestion that would change the principle of one-person, one-vote."

The government introduced the 1993 election law as a temporary legislation. The bill has not been debated by the legislature that was elected under that tem-

(Continued on page 7)

Audit Bureau reports civil service embezzlement of JD718,920 in 1995

By Samir Hijawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Audit Bureau disclosed Monday that government employees had embezzled JD 718,920 from ministries and departments in 1995.

The bureau released a report that said embezzlements in the Ministry of Supply topped the list with 14 cases involving JD 218,474. It said that the cases ranged from forging food coupons to stealing maize and animal feed stored in the ministry's warehouses.

In the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, six cases involving the embezzlement of JD 82,671 were discovered, according to the report, which said JD 9,896 have been retrieved from the embezzlers.

The report said that employees in the Ministry of Finance and its affiliated

departments embezzled JD 103,393 in five cases. The ministry has retrieved JD1,200 of the embezzled amount. But the report said that one of the cases had caused the ministry to incur losses estimated at JD100,000 which would have been collected in customs duty and fines. The report said two cases involved trucks laden with flour and rice prepared for smuggling to Iraq.

In the Health Ministry, the report said, a total of JD3,899 were embezzled in five cases and that JD11,855 had been retrieved.

In the Ministry of Education, the embezzled sums amounted to JD 14,408 in five cases. In the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs the stolen sums were JD156,825 in three cases.

In the Ministry of Water and Irrigation the total embezzlement amounted to JD 65,869 in two cases.

in the Justice Ministry JD 38,412 in two cases and in the Ministry of Post and Communications JD 2,441 in two cases.

In the Ministry of Public Works there was one case in which JD 14,928 were stolen and a total of JD5,259 from the Ministry of Energy. JD 115 from the Ministry of Youth and JD12,227 from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

The report said only JD15,685 were retrieved.

The Audit Bureau report also announced that the actual sums spent on capital projects by government departments were less by JD 55.5 million than the amounts originally allocated for them in the fiscal budget. It said that this reflects delays in the implementation of development projects, noting that the delays occurred in the ministries of water and irrigation, health, agriculture and interior.

Arafat: Hebron deadlock is a threat to entire peace process

Qatari foreign minister visits Gaza, affirms no ties with Israel without progress towards peace

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned Monday that the deadlock in negotiations with Israel over its long-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron was threatening the entire Middle East peace process.

"If Israel continues in its intransigence ... there is a direct threat to the peace process not only on the Palestinian track but in the entire region," Mr. Arafat said after the latest round in six weeks of

negotiations with Israel over the extension of self-rule to Hebron failed to yield significant progress.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu countered that Mr. Arafat was stalling in the Hebron talks in an effort to build pressure on the Israeli government.

"My impression is that there is a deliberate decision on the Palestinian side not to conclude the talks, to delay possibly in hope the blame will be on

Israel," he told reporters in West Jerusalem. "I don't think they are going to succeed."

Mr. Arafat was speaking after meeting here with Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani, who backed up the Palestinian leader's warning by saying his government insisted Israel implement all its peace agreements "without delay."

"We have said that as

Mordechai approves major settlement expansion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has approved plans for a huge expansion of a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, an official said on Monday.

The Palestinian National Authority immediately condemned the approval as a link in the policies of the Israeli government to

(Continued on page 7)



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday attends a celebration in Karak marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday (Petra photo)

Israel to free 3 Jordanian prisoners before year-end

Release of rest will take time — Muasher

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three Jordanians serving jail sentences in Israel are expected to be freed before the end of this year but securing the release of the rest — said to be 18 — would take some time. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

The comment came amid reports from Israel that Jordanian prisoners at Ashkelon jail were threatening to go on hunger-strike to protest their detention conditions and demand their release.

Dr. Muasher, addressing a weekly press briefing, also noted that Israeli President Ezer Weizman had promised, during a visit to Jordan this month, that he would look into the cases of Jordanian prisoners in Israel. But, the minister pointed out, the Israeli president did not have sweeping authority to offer amnesty to every prisoner.

The minister told the briefing that the Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Omar Rifai, had informed the government that Israel had agreed to free three Jordanian prisoners before the end of the year. That would raise to nearly 20 the total number of Jordanians released by Israel following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994.

"Securing the release of the rest is going to be a lengthy process because all of them are convicted of killing Israeli civilians or soldiers," said Dr. Muasher.

The Israeli military has the final say in releasing prisoners serving sentences on murder charges, and it has consistently followed a lengthy procedure before recommending to the government that any murder convict be freed.

That posture is one of the key hurdles cited by Israeli government officials for the delays in freeing many of the thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli jails as part of the autonomy agreements.

The Israeli president can order the release of prisoners under special pardons offered by himself, but this does not apply to "crimes that involve blood."

President Weizman told a press conference during his visit to Jordan this month that he would study the issue of Jordanian

prisoners closely but did not make a specific pledge that they would be released.

Referring to Mr. Weizman's comments, Dr. Muasher, who served as ambassador to Israel before becoming minister of information early this year, noted: "The Israeli president does not have sweeping authority to offer amnesty to any prisoner. His authority applies only to certain cases."

Meanwhile, an appeal was issued on behalf of the families of Jordanian prisoners in Israel to petition His Majesty King Hussein to personally intervene to secure the release of the prisoners.

The handwritten appeal, distributed to journalists attending Monday's press briefing by Dr. Muasher, said the Jordanian prisoners in Israel were suffering from "psychological as well as health problems," and, as such, it was imperative that they be released.

The appeal was signed by Saeed Nimer Makahel "on behalf of the families of Jordanian prisoners in Israel."

Meanwhile, the Arabic-language Al Ra'i reported that a delegation representing the Society of Friends of Prisoners based in Nazareth had visited Ashkelon jail and met with Jordanian and Lebanese held there.

"They found that the situation in the prison was very bad in terms of food nature of confinement," the paper said, adding that the Israeli authorities were frequently shifting the prisoners around.

"The prisoners said that they would go on hunger-strike if they were not freed, and they appealed to the government of Jordan through the delegation which is expected to visit the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv to exert efforts on their behalf," the report said.

The delegation received a list of 11 Jordanian prisoners in Ashkelon and five in Naffah prison, the report said.

In a press release, the society sent an appeal to the Jordanian government and ambassador in Israel to pay a visit to the prisoners and listen their grievances.

The society also sent a memo to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights organisations requesting their intervention on behalf of the prisoners.



QATARI MINISTER VISITS GAZA: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat speaks with the Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani in Gaza on Monday. The Qatari minister reiterated during his first visit to the Palestinian autonomous enclave that his country would continue to freeze normalisation of ties with Israel unless peace talks moved forward (see page 1) (Reuters photo)

Flashfloods hit Egypt; 7 killed

CAIRO (AP) — Torrential rains hit southern Egypt for the sixth straight day Monday flooding thousands of acres of land, destroying scores of houses and leaving at least seven people dead.

Police officials said the main highways to southern Egypt have been damaged by flash floods unleashed by the rains.

On Sunday night, four members of a family were electrocuted when an electricity line fell on their home near Mansout.

A 10-year-old girl died in Minya when she was crushed by a palm tree toppled by the flooding. A woman in neighbouring Assiut was electrocuted, and another woman in

Sohag died of a heart attack when flash floods struck her village.

The four cities are 240 to 400 kilometres south of Cairo.

The rains destroyed scores of houses made of mud bricks, which disintegrated in the flooding. In Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, 260 houses were sitting in water, and rescue teams were trying to evacuate their inhabitants.

Police said thousands of acres of agricultural land also are under water.

The rains and floods have caused extensive damage over the past few days to electricity and telephone lines in southern Egypt. Another casualty came over the weekend when a man

was electrocuted in the tourist resort of Hurgada on the Red Sea.

Stormy weather Thursday caused a tourist Nile River cruiser to capsize. Of the 128 foreign tourists and Egyptians abroad, 14 died and six others were missing and feared dead.

The bodies of five Egyptians and an unidentified woman were the latest to be recovered on Sunday.

Frogmen had earlier retrieved the bodies of eight other people, since the accident on Thursday. They were identified as Czech, Slovak and Polish tourists, reports said. Rescuers were continuing their efforts to find six people still left in the Nile — five tourists and an Egyptian.

Probe opens in suspect's killing in Lebanon; press suggests cover-up

BEIRUT (AP) — Amid press suggestions of a cover-up, investigators Monday heard testimony from government security agents who killed a suspect in the alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars from the Finance Ministry.

Farid Moussali, a 38-year-old Palestinian, was shot to death by agents who raided a hideout in the mountain village of Ashqout early Sunday, the state security department said. The raiding party started shooting after it came under fire from Moussali, who was alone, a department statement said.

The embezzlement case underlined the corruption which has plagued the Lebanese civil service for decades and angered ordinary Lebanese burdened with rising taxes and duties imposed by the Finance Ministry.

Moussali had been in hiding since accusations surfaced in August that he and Finance Ministry Treasurer Rafat Suleiman collaborated in a scam to pass forged tax stamps through the ministry's

bureaucracy and pocket the money.

Moussali's death may have eliminated a main lead for investigators, court officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Both the left-leaning daily Al Safir and the conservative Al Diyar newspaper questioned the circumstances surrounding Moussali's death.

"We have to ask more additional questions about the possibility of arresting Farid Moussali without killing him, especially since he possessed extremely important information which could have uncovered in full the ambiguities around Rafat Suleiman," Al Diyar said.

Al Safir quoted residents near where Moussali was killed as saying they doubted he was killed in a gun battle since they did not hear a lot of shooting.

Moussali died from bullet wounds in the chest, mouth and eye. A coroner said the man was shot from a distance of more than 30 centimetres, but could not ascertain from exactly how far away the fatal

bullet were fired.

Military Prosecutor General Joseph Madhaffi interrogated seven members of the security forces and the owner of the building where the suspect had been hiding.

Mr. Maamari said the interrogation was routine and no person was being held in the shooting. The questioning lasted from Sunday night into the early hours Monday.

The other suspect, Suleiman, has been missing since the scandal was uncovered. Authorities say he is a wanted fugitive. His family said Sunday he was being held prisoner, but did not say who was holding him.

The embezzled money was estimated at first at 43 billion pounds (\$26 million), then it was dropped to 15 billion pounds (about \$10 million). State Minister for Finance Fuad Santora said Friday that the money amounted to only 4 billion pounds (\$2.5 million).

The Finance Ministry is headed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, but running it is delegated to Mr. Santora.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat to attend donors' meeting

PARIS (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will attend a donors' meeting in Paris of the World Bank's consultative group on the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday, the bank said on Monday. The meeting is a pledging session for World Bank programmes in the autonomous Palestinian areas for 1997. Kemal Dervis, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa, told reporters. Mr. Arafat will be accompanied by Nabil Shaath and Mohammad Nashashibi who are among his main advisers for economic and financial issues.

Five killed, 10 injured in Yemeni fight

SANAA (AP) — Five people were killed and 10 injured on Sunday when fighting broke out between tribesmen over a water canal claimed by two tribes, security sources said. They said army and security forces backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers were headed for the area of the fighting in the province of Lahj, some 100 kilometres north of the port city of Aden, to try and resolve the dispute. Yemen, an impoverished and largely tribal country of some 17 million people in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, is often beset by tribal conflicts. Weapons, including heavy machine guns, rocket launchers and artillery, are not difficult to buy in Yemen, where some parts are outside the influence of the central government in Sanaa, the capital.

Rabin assassin asks for computer

BEER SHEVA (AFP) — Yigal Amir, the assassin of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, asked a court on Sunday for a computer to write his memoirs and continue his law studies, officials said. The right-wing extremist, who has been sentenced to life in prison for shooting Rabin at a peace rally last year, also asked that he be moved to a prison closer to his home in Tel Aviv to facilitate visits from his lawyers and family. He also appealed to the court that the surveillance camera be removed from his high-security, solitary cell in the Beer Sheva prison in southern Israel. Amir said he was continuing his law studies through the mail. He was convicted in March of shooting Rabin at point blank range on Nov. 4, 1995, during a peace rally in Tel Aviv. He admitted the shooting.

Turkey seizes heroin worth \$41 million

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security forces have seized heroin worth more than \$40 million in two drug raids and one consignment was found in dried dung, the state-run Anatolian news agency said on Monday. Five people were detained in connection with the seizure of 195 kilograms of the drug, estimated to be worth three trillion Turkish lira (\$30 million), from a house in southeastern Hakkari province on Sunday. Gendarmes raided the house in Yuksekova after a tip-off and found the heroin hidden in dried dung, the agency said. It said the seized drugs were to be taken to the eastern province of Van. In Van, a further 74 kilograms of heroin worth \$11.4 million was seized. Turkey is a major transit point for heroin brought in from Asia for shipment to Western Europe. In 1995, Turkish security forces seized 3.4 tonnes of heroin, more than fifth of the worldwide haul.

Morocco arrests rebels fleeing Algeria

RABAT (R) — Moroccan security forces have killed an Algerian guerrilla and arrested other rebels apparently trying to sneak into Morocco to escape Algerian forces, a Moroccan newspaper said on Monday. Al Itihad Al Ishiraki newspaper said one Algerian guerrilla was killed, after he refused to surrender to Moroccan security forces. "The armed men were held by the royal gendarmes in the (eastern town) of Jerada," said the newspaper quoting what it called reliable sources. In Algiers, the leading newspaper Al Watan said on Monday "armed terrorist groups have infiltrated into Algeria through its border with Morocco." The Algerian government has been battling guerrillas since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead. Around 60,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since then. Morocco in 1993 arrested the leader of the feared Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Abdoul Haq Liada, and handed him over to Algeria where he was sentenced to death by an Algiers court.

Qatar to get new constitution

DOHA (AP) — Qatar will get a new constitution to incorporate recent changes in the country's laws, the ruler of the emirate said Monday.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani made the announcement at the opening session of his newly expanded advisory council. The panel, increased from 30 to 35 members, has no legislative responsibilities but is allowed to make recommendations to the appointed government.

Sheikh Hamad took power after ousting his father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, in a bloodless coup in June 1995. Since then, he has announced political and economic reforms.

Qatar, a country of 200,000 citizens on the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula has had a provisional constitution since it gained independence 25 years ago. Analysts suggest

that Sheikh Hamad's call for a permanent document would help him consolidate power by incorporating changes into the country's laws. Last month, the emir named the third of his four sons to be crown prince after passing a decree that permits any of his sons to succeed him, not just the eldest. He has also appointed his younger half-brother prime minister, giving up a position that had always been held by the emir himself.

Sheikh Hamad also has taken steps to invigorate its private sector and promote foreign investment, including formation of an industrial development bank and a stock exchange.

Qatar has rich energy resources, including the third-largest natural gas reserves in the world. But Sheikh Hamad said finding financing for major projects remains a problem.

4 drug traffickers hanged in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Four members of an international drug ring have been hanged in northern Iran after being caught with one tonne of opium and 12 kilograms of morphine, a newspaper reported Monday.

The four Iranians, including ringleader Mohammad Shahraki, were hanged after being convicted by a revolutionary court in Sari, the main town in Mazandaran province, the Kayhan newspaper said, without giving the date of their execution or arrest.

The cases of six other gang members are still under investigation, it added. They brought the narcotics from Pakistan and distributed them in Iran and several other countries, the paper said.

Iran is a transit route for drugs from Pakistan and Afghanistan destined for Europe.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05Budgie
14:25Oscar's Orchestra
14:40Comedy — I Love Lucy
15:00Sciences Cartoon
15:15Magazine — Montagne
15:30At The Zoo
16:30My Secret Identity
17:00News Flash
17:15Fun With Physics
17:15Road To Avoilea
18:00 Serie — La Lumiere des Jusies
19:00Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Extra Large
19:30News Headlines
19:35Murphy Brown
20:00Magazine — Zero One
20:30Encounter
21:10Star Trek
22:00News in English
22:25China Beach
23:15Mission Impossible
23:59Are You Being Served?

PRAYER TIMES

04:42Fajr
06:03(Sunrise) Duha
11:21Dhuhr
14:14Asr
16:39Maghreb
17:59Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweithel. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel.
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Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 634328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.
Under the effect of the unstable
moist air mass currently affecting
the Kingdom, skies will be

cloudy to partly cloudy, winds

southeasterly moderate to active,

with a chance of rainfall at intervals,

in Aqaba, winds will be

southerly moderate and seas

rough.

Amman12/17

Aqaba17/24

Deserts12/18

Jordan Valley15/23

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 16, Aqaba 24 Humidity

readings: Amman 98 per cent,

Aqaba 58 per cent.

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab758848
Dr. Yousef Rashid896301
Dr. Walid Al Masri875485
Dr. Khalil Jbali740740
Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636720
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Nairoukh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847652
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr276852
Al Quds pharmacy
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halaseh982799

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre637111
Civil Defence Dept.661111
Civil Defence Immediate Resc
.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,
637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Com
plaints897467
Amman Municipality Com
plaints787111
Telephone Information (direc
tory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs
661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
.....815615
Electric Power Company
636381
RJ Flight Information 08-
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-
53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre
81813/32
Khalidi Maternity644281/6
Aklieh Maternity62441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity
.....642362
Malthas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital
602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart
and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital
.....09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
.....09990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
636381
Greek Catholic Hospital
074502127275

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)
07:25Damascus (RJ)
09:30Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:05Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05Beirut (RJ)
10:15Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:50Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur
(RJ)
15:55London (RJ)
16:00Bangkok (add) (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
16:35Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:45Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
Other Flights
07:30London (RJ)
07:35Damascus, London (BA)
11:30Cairo (MS)
15:00Kiev (6U)
15:45Dubai, Damascus (EK)
20:10Beirut (ME)
21:40Tel Aviv (LY)
23:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:59Aden (Y)
00:55Bucharest (RO)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:25Aqaba (RW)
18:55Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20Beirut (RJ)
08:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:05Amsterdam, Montreal,
Toronto (RJ)
11:15Vienna, Brussels (RJ)
12:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:10Paris (RJ)
12:15London (RJ)
12:15Cairo (RJ)
12:30Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
20:20Lamaca (RJ)
20:30Jeddah (RJ)
20:40Damascus (RJ)
21:00Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
22:00Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple700/500

Banana550/550

Banana (imported)800/650

Cabbage90/40

Carrot280/200

Cauliflower230/180

Cucumber (large)130/80

Cucumber (small)230/180

Eggplant130/80

Garlic700/500

Grapes380/250

Lemon370/180

Marrow (large)140/100

Marrow (small)230/180

Onion (green)260/160

Onion (dry)160/100

Olive (green)450/400

Olive (black)700/500

Orange580/350

Pear600/400

Pepper (hot)280/200

Pepper (sweet)200/120

Pepper (black)350/200

Spinach250/100

String Bean550/350

Tomato300/200

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

20:50Aqaba (RW)

HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every

Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every

Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every

every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every

Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple700/500

Queen attends fund-raising concert for children

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the "High-Strung String Ensemble" Monday held a fund-raising concert to benefit the S.O.S. Children's Village Association of Jordan, according to a Royal Court statement.

The concert was attended by the Association's Honorary Chairperson, Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre, the statement said.

The concert, which was organised in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy and Freddy for Music, featured Viennese music and a selection of waltzes by Robert Stolz as well as

opera singer Ms. Coppavina, accompanied by Oksana Musleh on piano.

Since their formation in 1992, the High Strung String Ensemble has performed regularly throughout their native Austria and abroad, where the ensemble supports various social organisations through benefit concerts and school workshops.

In 1995, they were presented with an Award of Honour from the composer Robert Stolz for their support and promotion of his works. The late Robert Stolz was a renowned Austrian composer whose works earned him the title "the last waltz king of the Silver Era

of Viennese operettas."

He was awarded the titles Crown Order of Belgium and Commander of the Order of Von Organe-Nassau and many international foundations and musical scholarships have been established in his name.

He died in Berlin in 1975 and was buried in Vienna among the country's great composers.

The Queen was accompanied by HRH Princess Wijdan Ali and received by the Chairman of the S.O.S. Board Alia Krayim, the Austrian Ambassador Michael Stiglbauer, S.O.S. National Director Lina Kopyt and S.O.S. board members.

Jordan still awaiting word on murder of Suboh 'Incident could harm ties with Iraq'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is still awaiting a "satisfactory answer" from Iraq over the killing of a Jordanian embassy staff driver in Baghdad.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

Addressing a press briefing, the minister also said that security authorities had taken "appropriate" measures to ensure that the 250 blank Jordanian passports that were stolen from the slain driver were invalidated.

The body of embassy driver Omar Suboh, 40, was found in the desert between the Trebil border crossing and Baghdad on Monday. He had been on a regular fortnightly run between Amman and Baghdad carrying the weekly diplomatic bag.

This time, the diplomatic bag contained 250 blank passports and other documents. The entire pouch as well as the car Mr. Suboh was driving were missing. It was not known whether he was carrying any sum of money.

Dr. Muasher said the government maintained that it had not sent any cash with the driver to Baghdad.

"This is not the first time that a Jordanian has been killed in Iraq," noted Dr. Muasher. "We told the government of Iraq responsible for the safety



The body of slain embassy driver Omar Suboh arrives from Iraq (Petra photo)

and security of all Jordanian diplomats and affiliated staff in Iraq as outlined under the Vienna Convention," which determines obligations of host countries towards diplomats, he said.

"We also demand that the Iraqi government ensure the safety and security of all Jordanians living in Iraq and travelling to that country," the minister declared.

At least six Jordanians were killed in Iraq in suspicious circumstances in the past year. Many of the killings were blamed on robbers along the main 550-kilometre highway between the border crossing and Baghdad.

Nearly 4,000 Jordanians were studying in Iraq at the beginning of this year. This figure has declined considerably since then, said an independent source, who, however, could not estimate the number.

"Many families have recalled their sons from Baghdad and prevented them from returning there," said one source. "Some students did not go back after coming home for a brief vacation."

Asked whether the Baghdad government had informed Amman as to the results of inquiries into the Suboh killing, Dr. Muasher told reporters the Iraqi authorities had indicated that the murder was related to highway robbery.

But the minister maintained that the Iraqi reply was unsatisfactory.

"We are still waiting for a satisfactory answer from the Iraqi government over the latest incident," he told the press.

Earlier, an official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry as quoted by the Jordan News Agency said the government "is still waiting for the results of the inquiry in order to identify and arrest the perpetrators of this disgraceful crime."

The spokesman said the delay in the investigation "carries the risk of harming relations between the two countries as well as the reputation of Iraqi security forces."

The spokesman rejected what he described as "confused and unofficial" reports by "some news agencies and the press about the incident" and said that Jordan was also seeking the return of the diplomatic pouch and the contents in their entirety.

Dr. Muasher said the diplomat bag did not contain any "security-sensitive" documents.

"As to the missing passports," a security authority spokesman said, "the appropriate measures to ensure that they (the passports) are not misused" he added.

Mr. Suboh's body was brought home last week and laid to rest at his hometown of Yaffa in the Irbid Governorate in a funeral attended by Health Minister Aref Bataineh, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein, as well as a representative of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

Motorists receive 'surprise' on King's birthday

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's motorists were relieved of traffic citations on Nov. 14, when traffic officials issued a "certificate of congratulations" on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday for most traffic violations.

For the first time in Public Security Department (PSD) history, traffic officials substituted the pink slip routinely issued to traffic violators with a similar pink slip substituting congratulations and advisory notes.

The slip read as follows: "We congratulate you on His Majesty, the King's birthday. Dear motorists, you have committed [a violation]. On this happy occasion, we want only to remind you to abide by traffic safety regulations. Best wishes."

"Most motorists were annoyed when they were pulled over and issued a citation by traffic officials and patrol units, but after reading its contents they were startled and happy and began to laugh," police officials observing the operations said.

Traffic officials were pleased with the "congratulations citations" and were using every least infraction as an excuse to pull over the hapless driver and proffer the substituted slip.

"Usually, traffic officials are very lenient in issuing traffic citations, but on Nov. 14, they were expeditious in pulling over motorists to surprise them with the certificate," an observer said.

According to one observer, many motorists who had their vehicles parked in a no parking zone, were upset when they saw the pink slip on their windshield wipers.

"But after reading its contents their mood changed and one driver actually kissed the slip," she told the Jordan Times.

The PSD had printed more than 8,000 slips which were handed to all PSD departments in the Kingdom. Almost 5,000 "congratulation certificates" were distributed to motorists on that day.

Dangerous violations such as crossing a red light were not included in the PSD's forgiving gesture.

"Many motorists said they were going to keep the certificates as a happy memory," one woman said.

Ministry dissuades preferential treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Interior officials have received a circulated memorandum by Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat emphasising that their offices are to conduct government business professionally and without preferential treatment.

Dr. Khleifat stated in the memo, as quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday and sent to employees of the ministry as well as governors in the various districts, that they are not "to interfere in the course of official business to secure favourable treatment for their friends, acquaintances or relatives, and to refrain from giving preference to certain cases over others," stressing that all cases must be treated with fairness and objectivity.

The minister said that the country's interior ministry and governors' offices are open for the public's benefit and must be conducted with neither discrimination nor favouritism.

He said that civil servants must handle all cases with "transparency, integrity and equality."

Court delays verdict in sabotage trial

AMMAN — The State Security Court Monday delayed its verdict, regarding two men accused of sabotage, until Nov. 26 to further study the case, according to judicial sources.

Salem Jaradat and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, are being tried at the State Security Court on charges of plotting to carry out extremist attacks as well as the manufacturing and possession of illegal arms and hand-made explosives with illicit intent.

In a separate trial, Oct. 31, 1996, the two defendants were pronounced guilty by the Amman Criminal Court on charges of shooting and wounding former French Embassy Secretary Gilles Heine in February of 1995.

The prosecution charged that, at the time, the two defendants had planned to attack tourists in the Wadi Mujib area and that they attempted to take the French diplomat and his wife hostage.

A nearby police unit witnessed the struggle, arrived on the scene and Mr. Heine was shot in the ensuing melee.

However, the Criminal Court concluded that the bullet retrieved from the diplomat's body was that of a nine millimetre gun, "while the weapon found

on the defendants' persons was a seven millimetre gun."

In addition, the court said it relied on Mr. Heine's own testimony that his gunshot wound did not come from the defendants.

During the trial, the defendants claimed that they had been framed and that it was, indeed, the police who shot the French diplomat.

The State Security Court is also expected to announce its ruling in the case of 13 men, seven of whom are accused of plotting subversion, after it had previously postponed announcing the verdict until Nov. 27.

The seven men, known by their affiliated name Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), are charged with plotting to carry out extremist attacks and illegally possessing and manufacturing explosive materials with illicit intent.

The remaining six, who have been released on bail, are standing trial for slandering His Majesty King Hussein.

If convicted of illegal possession of explosives with illicit intent, defendants in both cases could receive the death penalty.

R.H.

Legal counsel named in Shmeisani murder trial

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 34-year-old man, accused of killing his two children, Monday told the Amman Criminal Court that he had appointed attorney Ahmad Najdawi for his defence.

The first court session is scheduled to begin Nov. 30. Mazen Masri faces two counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder and was called by Criminal Court Presiding Judge Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq to state whether he had appointed an attorney to defend him in a court of law.

Two weeks after his two children, Hanin, eight, and Hani, six, were found dead in their apartment, Mr. Masri, a computer programmer, confessed to the killing.

The children were discovered by their mother Hiam Hamoudeh, 32, on Sept. 11. Mr. Masri told authorities that he gave the children two cyanide pills that he had procured in Canada during a business trip, instead of their daily vitamin.

He also confessed to a previous failed attempt to kill his wife and two children by opening a gas bottle and placing it behind the bedroom door while they slept, in the Abu Oneizah

Housing Complex apartment where they lived.

In his confession to police, Mr. Masri cited "jealousy and family problems" as the motive behind the killing of his two children.

Man sentenced for attempted murder of fiancée

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court Monday sentenced a 34-year-old man to seven-and-a-half year prison term after he was found guilty of the attempted murder of his fiancée in Wadi Saqra on Feb. 21, 1995.

Khader Atta was found guilty by the Criminal Court tribunal comprised of Judges Tawfiq, Ismael Hmouz and Mufleh Mubaidin, of shooting and wounding his fiancée Lina Mohammad, 26, in her office near the King Abdullah Gardens in Wadi Saqra.

The court said that the victim, who was engaged to the defendant, "had changed her mind about marrying him" due to misunderstandings between the two.

On the evening of Feb. 21, according to court papers, the defendant called Ms. Mohammad at her office "asking to meet with her, but she refused."

According to court transcripts, Mr. Atta then went to Ms. Mohammad's office, confronted her as she was preparing to leave, punched her in the face and forced her back into the office at gunpoint.

The court said that the defendant threatened Ms. Mohammad and waved his gun at her threatening: "You want to leave me, that is your dream. I swear to God I'll kill you."

The documents said that Ms. Mohammad tried to calm down her fiancé "as he was pointing the gun towards her and in a state of agitation."

But instead, Mr. Atta placed the gun on her cheek and reportedly said, "We either live together or die together," shot her in the mouth and fled the scene.

Ms. Mohammad was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was treated. Mr. Atta was apprehended by authorities two weeks hence.

In its ruling, the Court relied on the testimonies of Ms. Mohammad, the defendant's brother who was with him when the incident occurred and those of a security guard who rushed to the office upon hearing gunfire.

Fate of wealthy vagrant up to court

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 60-year-old mendicant was apprehended by police this week in Irbid in possession of JD 1,558 and with deposit bank slips indicating an additional JD 40,000 in a personal account, a Ministry of Social Development official said.

Naseef Mohammed Saker, from the Irbid refugee camp was caught during a routine police and Ministry of Social Development raid directed at mendicants in downtown Irbid.

According to Director of Irbid's Ministry of Social Affairs Salman Abanda, ministry officials accompanied by police make regular tours in main cities and detain loiterers before turning them over to the courts.

Mr. Abanda said that Mr. Saker has no family, had previously been apprehended, is currently detained and will appear in court on Wednesday.

He also stated that the fate of the mendicant's assets falls under the court's jurisdiction, adding that the law resolutely prohibits begging, that the court can jail violators for a period of three months and that in case of repeat offenders such as Mr. Saker, the court has the prerogative to send mendicants to rehabilitation centres for up to three years.

Most mendicants are in no need of money but beg because it is the easiest way to get untaxed and unearned money, Mr. Abanda told the Jordan Times.

What's Going On

FILMS

• Children's film "Return to Treasure Island" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

• Spanish film "Carmen" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES

• "Frozen in Time for 5000 years: Recent Research on the Iceman from the Tyrol" by Andreas Lippert at the Friends of Archaeology Centre (FOA) at 6:00 p.m.

• "Places With Spiritual Powers: A Journey to the Holy Sites of Jordan" by Jordanian architect Amman Khammash at the American Centre auditorium, Abdoun at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

• "Relations of the Political Parties with the Establishment of the Civil Society" and "World Ideological Changes and its Effects on Party Organisational and Ideological Structures" by Mazen Al Saket and Najj Aloush at the Jordan People's Democratic Party headquarters at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

• Performance of Christmas carols by the Ahllyal School for Girl's Choir band at the Jordan River Designs, Jabal Amman, First Circle, at 4:00 p.m. (Tel 613081).

EXHIBITIONS

• Aspects from the modern Jordanian plastic art by several Jordanian artists entitled "Message" at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.

• Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawit at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.

• Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.

• Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuhels, until Nov. 21.

• Works by Syrian artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. until Nov. 30.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister meets with Egyptian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakanbeh Monday received Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Hani Riyadh and the two discussed the position of Egyptian labourers in the Kingdom, particularly those whose passports are expired or about to expire. The talks also covered Egyptian labourers who entered the Kingdom after August 1st and who have no right to work unless possessing a job contract, certified from the Ministry of Labour.

Ministries send streamlining requests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Administrative Development has received requests from the Ministry of Youth and the Jordanian Ports Corporation to help restructure and reorganise their administration systems and to upgrade, modernise and simplify their procedures, according to a ministry spokesman. Al Ra'i daily quoted the spokesman as saying that the Ministry of Administrative Development has created committees to undertake the task of restructuring both departments and that the committees are to embark on their task in the coming week.

GUVS issues JD 35,000 grant

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Monday announced a decision to issue a grant totalling JD 35,000 in the form of educational aid to university students. The council will meet under the chairmanship of GUVS Executive President Abdullah Khateib, who said that the student beneficiaries will each receive a sum of JD 75.

German ambassador visits university

AMMAN (J.T.) German ambassador to Jordan Peter Mende visited the University of Jordan Monday and met with President Fawzi Gharabeh to discuss German language courses in the university as well as German assistance provided to the university by a number of German organisations concerned with education. Dr. Gharabeh briefed the ambassador on the university's programmes, noting that several faculty members are being recruited and trained to give German language courses at the university.

Japan, France sign 20-point action plan for 21st century

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and French President Jacques Chirac Monday signed a 20-point action plan aimed at boosting bilateral ties into the 21st century.

Mr. Chirac, who arrived here Sunday for a six-day visit, later said that cooperation and dialogue between his country and Japan should help bring about an "indispensable rapprochement" between Europe and Asia.

"Rebalancing the 'great triangle' of growth formed by America, Europe and Asia will come about through strengthening relations between Europe and East Asia," he said in a speech to 900 students and other guests at Keio University.

The Franco-Japanese dialogue will facilitate this indispensable rapprochement," he said.

The agreement signed Monday spells out 20 areas of cooperation for 2000 including a provision that the Japanese and French leaders meet "at least once a year to promote joint activities at the dawn of the new millennium."

"We've become friends," Mr. Hashimoto said during the signing ceremony, explaining that the relationship between Tokyo and Paris would be "one of the most important links between Asian and European countries."

Mr. Chirac said exchanges between the two countries did not reflect the size of their economies. "We are two great economic powers, the second and fourth in the world, but the level of our exchanges is still insufficient," he said.

"Our two nations get on well together and we are getting on better and better," Mr. Chirac said, noting the numerous "common approaches" taken by the two countries at the group of seven summit in Lyons earlier this year.

Mr. Chirac highlighted the areas of development aid along with the commitment of the two countries to exchange-rate stability and their opposition to unilateral measures such as U.S. sanctions against Cuba and Iran.

Under the agreement, foreign ministers of the two countries are to meet at least twice a year while ministers in charge of economics, trade, industry and finance are to meet at least once a year. Officials in charge of the Japanese and French ministries will also hold regular meetings.

Japan and France will also hold regular "two-plus-two" talks from 1997, bringing together Foreign and Defence Ministry officials to discuss the "full range of Franco-Japanese cooperation in the politico-military sphere."

The agreement also encourages more frequent meetings between economic and trade union groups along with business leaders from the two countries.

"France and Japan support the development of trade ties and are committed to holding bilateral talks aimed at removing barriers limiting market access whenever it is necessary," the agreement said.

During talks between the two leaders, Mr. Hashimoto said ties between Tokyo and Paris were "at the heart of the Asia-Europe relationship" and that Monday's agreement was only a "beginning" for the two countries.

Mr. Chirac cited sectors where French exports face barriers in Japan such as apples, beef and aircraft, noting that Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL) was alone among the world's 10 biggest airlines in not possessing any Airbus aircraft.

Mr. Hashimoto replied that JAL was a private company and that other Japanese airlines used planes made by the European consortium.

During their talks, Mr. Chirac raised the issue of problems faced by French construction companies in the Japanese market.

But the president noted that he had been telling French business leaders that the Japanese market was not only possible but also necessary, praising the narrowing of the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Mr. Chirac also indicated that France Telecom was seeking "important partners" and called for a "greater opening" of the Japanese insurance market.

Earlier, Mr. Chirac and his wife, Bernadette, met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Akasaka Palace, marking the official start of the French leader's visit. His 43rd to Japan and his first since becoming president.

2 Koreas poised to discuss return of submarine dead

SEOUL (AFP) — North and South Korea Monday appeared poised to ease a tense standoff over an incident by a Northern submarine with the first indirect discussions on the return of the bodies of the crew.

But rival demands for apologies clouded the prospects of ending the standoff that has jeopardised Pyongyang's two-year-long nuclear freeze and U.S. efforts to draw Pyongyang out of its isolation, observers said.

"The North raised the issue on Thursday, and it will be discussed tomorrow (Tuesday)," a United Nations Command (UNC) spokesman here told AFP.

He said U.N. Armistice Commission officers had accepted the North Korean request to discuss the matter Tuesday at a meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Confirmation of the Panmunjom meeting followed the first statement by South Korea that it was willing to discuss repatriation of the bodies, but only if the north apologises first.

"I think repatriation of the bodies should be seen from the side of the bereaved families," the South's Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-ha said, adding that Pyongyang must admit, apologise and pledge never to repeat

the incident. An almost simultaneous statement from the North said it wanted to resolve the matter in a peaceful fashion, but it too, demanded an apology.

South Korea has previously flatly rejected the North's demands for repatriation of the bodies; it was the first time the government has agreed to discuss the issue.

The submarine went aground on a South Korean beach on Sept. 18. The crew, believed to number 26, fled ashore sparking a massive hunt by the South Korean military.

Of the 26, one is believed to be still at large, one was captured, 11 were found dead apparently killed by colleagues to prevent their capture, and 13 were killed.

North Korea's mouthpiece Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in an "authorised statement" demanded the immediate and unconditional return of the bodies, and an apology from South Korea for killing the crew.

"The South Korean authorities must apologise for the killing of our seamen in cold blood and unconditionally send the submarine and the dead bodies back to the north at an early date," KCNA said.

"Our demand was a token

of the North's good intention to keep the incident from leading to increased tension and undesirable developments," the statement said, urging the South to resolve the submarine row "in a peaceful way" and with "prudence."

Neither side mentioned the one captured crew member, who has told South Korean interrogators the submarine was on a spy pickup mission when it ran aground some 100 kilometres south of the DMZ.

North Korea at first remained silent and refused to accept a protest over its intrusion from Armistice Commission officers in the South.

However it later said the submarine had accidentally drifted South with engine trouble and threatened "thousandfold retaliation" if the submarine and the crew were not repatriated.

Seoul, which mobilised thousands of troops to hunt down the commandos and crew, angrily rejected the request.

Later President Kim Young-Sam said that if there was no apology, inter-Korean contacts, including work on two nuclear reactors promised to North Korea under a 1994 agreement with the United States, would be stalled.

Russian blast death toll rises to over 40

MOSCOW (R) — The death toll from the weekend explosion at a military block of flats in Russia's southern Dagestan region rose to more than 40 Monday and could end up at more than 50, Russia's emergency ministry said.

The ministry said the 43 dead from Saturday's blast included 15 children. Eight people were still in hospital and about a dozen were still missing and feared buried in the wreckage.

NTV television said rescuers still believed there was a chance of finding some of them alive and were picking slowly through the rubble for survivors.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted official sources as saying the blast might have been a gangland revenge attack linked to a regional crackdown on arms and caviar smuggling.

Border guards issued a statement describing the explosion as a "terrorist act" by cross-border criminals.

"Those who thus intend to intimidate the border defenders are deeply mistaken," said the statement, adding that the losses had strengthened the guards' resolve to deal harshly with the criminals.

It called on the relevant state institutions to deal with the "outrageous outburst of crime and terrorism" in the country.

Gangland violence has become commonplace in post-Communist Russia. Earlier this month 14 people died in a bomb blast at a Moscow cemetery apparently triggered by a feud between warring factions of an Afghan war veterans' charity with big business links.

Regional authorities declared Sunday and Monday official days of mourning in Dagestan, which borders the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya.

Some officials said there might be a link between the explosion and Chechnya, where an uneasy peace is holding after a 21-month bloody conflict between Russian forces and separatists.

But Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, whose aide worked out a new draft agreement with Moscow Saturday, denied the separatists were involved in the blast, which he said was aimed at wrecking the peace process.



Thousands of Romanians celebrate exit poll results showing opposition leader Emil Constantinescu ahead of incumbent Ion Iliescu by eight per cent Monday (Reuters photo)

Romania's president-elect pledges swift reform

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's president-elect Emil Constantinescu, savouring a historic triumph over ex-Communists who held the country in an iron grip, said Monday he would move swiftly to begin a new era of reform.

Mr. Constantinescu won Sunday's election by a surprisingly large margin, defeating Ion Iliescu who led the East European country since its bloody upheaval in 1989, and until recently was favourite to win again.

Exit polls gave Mr. Constantinescu a seven or eight point margin over Mr. Iliescu, an ex-Communist reviled by liberals as the man who hobbled real reforms after coming to power in the aftermath of Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's overthrow and execution.

"We are here to say that Romania will become once again the dignified and prosperous country we all wanted," Mr. Constantinescu told tens of thousands of people from a balcony over University Square, where many died in the December 1989 revolution.

For Mr. Constantinescu, 57 Tuesday, the victory was the final chapter in a revolution whose fruits opposition figures long argued were stolen from them by ex-Communists.

"We are home again because in this square we won liberty. This square is the starting place of democracy in Romania," he told supporters mindful of 1989 and a savage miners' riot against reformists in 1990 on the same spot.

Throughout the night revellers embraced, cracked open champagne and swayed to disco music in the square as they celebrated the end of the old order.

As the initial euphoria died away Mr. Constantinescu told Romanians to brace themselves for the pain of reviving a weak economy that has left most of them in poverty and pledged to begin a reform programme immediately he is inaugurated.

"The time for action has begun. From this moment, we'll have to work," he told a television interviewer.

"We will have an austerity programme. We have an extremely difficult legacy. The government must apply long-term reform but must achieve results quickly."

"I am convinced we will be able to make this effort and that we will succeed if we remove incompetence and theft."

The former geology professor said he would work with his political partners to implement quickly his "contract with Romania", modelled on the U.S. Republican Party programme.

The contract promises improved social benefits, reduced taxation, easier credit for the disadvantaged and better economic management within 200 days of taking power.

Mr. Constantinescu also promised to attack corruption, liberate financial markets and remove barriers to foreign investment that prevented Romania getting the help it needed.

His pro-Western belief in free markets will go down well abroad, and help to improve Romania's poor image as a backward country in the thrall of Ceausescu's successors.

"This time we will have to use with wisdom the new sympathy we are getting, capital we lost in 1989," he said, adding that his victory, coupled with the parliamentary triumph two weeks ago of his centrist group, had won foreign support.

His success ended Romania's status as the sole East European state where former Communists had yet to be dislodged and showed a new political maturity, analysts said.

"It is the first time in Romania's history that a leader is departing in a democratic way," commentator Ion Cristoiu said.

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Red Cross launches fresh appeal for help to N. Korea

BEIJING (AFP) — The Red Cross Monday made its third and biggest appeal for help to alleviate Stalinist North Korea's food crisis.

"The situation is worse than last year and than earlier this year... and the needs are almost overwhelming," said Ole Gronning, Pyongyang representative for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"Quite a lot of people are in a very bad situation, and they are eating unbalanced rice and wheat which means the harvest is smaller now," he added.

The federation's \$10.5 million appeal will target 139,000 people who lost everything in severe floods in 1995 and 1996, providing them with 450 grammes (15.75 ounces) of food a day through to the 1997 harvest.

In addition, 550 goats will be distributed among families living in mountainous areas, and the money will also fund education projects to prepare North Koreans to deal with future disasters.

The federation has already launched a \$3.9 million and a \$6.1 million appeal for beleaguered North Korea and received \$7.9 million for its first two efforts.

"The more we get to know North Korea, the greater the needs appear to be," said Charles Eldred-Evans, the federation's regional information officer in Kuala Lumpur.

South Korean officials have attempted to cast doubt on the scope of the food crisis. But, according to North Korean officials, more than 20 per cent of its total arable land was underwater for more than 10 days during this year's floods, rendering it barren and useless.

They say North Korea will need 5.5 million tonnes of food to keep its population alive in 1997, but will only be able to provide 3.5 million tonnes, leaving a 40 per cent shortfall.

Mr. Gronning said he did not know the percentage of North Korea's 22 million people who were in serious need of food, but previous

estimates have put the figure as high as one half.

He said that the government food allowance had risen from 200 grammes (seven ounces) to 250 grammes (8.75 ounces) over the harvest period.

"I'm not sure if the increase has been maintained, but with assistance from other international agencies, this allowance can be boosted to 450 grammes (15.75 ounces)," he added.

The U.N. minimum recommended allowance for refugees is 450 grammes.

While the North Korean government blames bad flooding in 1995 and 1996 for its disastrous food shortages, analysts put more of the blame on its policy of isolation in the face of massive changes in the former Communist world.

North Korea has refused to alter its hardline Stalinist stance or its strictly planned society, even though its economy has been in steep decline since 1991.



Romania's anti-Communist challenger Emil Constantinescu celebrates with his wife Nadia (centre) and daughter Norina (left) after results of exit polls Monday showed him ahead of incumbent Ion Iliescu (Reuters photo)

Crippled Russian spacecraft falls to earth

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia's crippled Mars probe, carrying four canisters of radioactive plutonium, fell to Earth Sunday over the South Pacific west of Chile, U.S. and Australian officials said.

U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which had been monitoring the stricken spacecraft's orbit, said it re-entered Earth's atmosphere above "a broad ocean area somewhere west of Chile" at about 8:30 p.m. est (01:30 GMT).

Australian officials said the probe landed between Easter Island and the Chilean coast and located the impact site at 31 degrees south, 96.3 degrees west.

The Chilean Navy had received no official word of the crash, but recovery of any debris from the spacecraft would be difficult if not impossible, a Chilean naval officer said.

"This area has one of the deepest ocean floors in the world. Any kind of recovery, if it were possible, would be very



Rwandan Hutu refugees pass by a dead Zairean soldier near the camp of Sake. Hundreds of thousands of refugees fled the Mugunga and Sake refugee camps Thursday to return to Rwanda after having been in Zaire for more than two years (Reuter photo)

Hutu refugee flow slows; Zaire force doubts increase

GISENYI, Rwanda (R) — The flow of Hutu refugees crossing into Rwanda from Zaire dropped sharply Monday while a fragile consensus on the need for a multinational peace force splintered.

With an estimated 400,000 refugees already back home and a further 100,000 on the move, several countries called for a rethink on the U.N. mission's goal and size.

Countries set to participate in the Canadian-led force said they would meet Wednesday at the U.S. military's European headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, to review the situation.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry stressed Sunday that Washington had yet to make a firm decision on participation. At one point during an NBC television interview, he said: "We are not the Salvation Army."

The Stuttgart meeting was announced at the world food summit in Rome by South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. Like Washington, South Africa had been a reluctant participant in the force, which was set up to help get food to the refugees.

Some 10,000 soldiers are supposed to join the Canadian-led contingent, but Mr. Mbeki said a force that size might not be needed now and the focus would be different anyway.

"I think one of the urgent questions that remains is that you've got these refugees who might have shifted location and are now in Rwanda and who still need to be fed and clothed," he said.

On Monday, Eritrea joined the chorus of countries saying the force was at best no longer necessary, at worst ill-conceived and said it was withdrawing an earlier commitment to take part.

In a statement faxed to Reuters in Nairobi, the Foreign Ministry said the wishes of regional leaders had been ignored.

"The government of Eritrea wishes to express its serious misgivings on the multinational force of intervention on eastern Zaire that is apparently under way," the statement said.

But Canada, backed by the United Nations, insisted the mission should go ahead.

"Now is not the time to pause and reflect. We still have to have very direct action," Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy told Reuters.

Mr. Axworthy said large numbers of refugees remained in various parts of eastern Zaire. They were weak, tired and hungry and would find it difficult to join the exodus.

Meanwhile in the heart of Africa, refugees woke up on the roads in the eastern Zairean city of Goma, put their belongings on their heads, held firm to their children and started walking at first light.

The first group plodded without pausing past three Rwandan soldiers at the border and crossed into the Rwandan town of Gisenyi.

The soldiers, who had stood guard overnight, abandoned the border post minutes later as the flow of refugees increased.

But at times it dwindled to a thin broken line, compared to the thousands crossing every hour, even in the early morning, on the previous two days.

"The flood is running out. These are the stragglers. It looks like this is the start of the end of this wave," said a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) worker, watching the slow silent procession.

Ten refugees, including three small children, pushed a pick-up vehicle loaded with mattresses and other belongings up a small hill across the border after it had run out of petrol.

There were two deaths overnight. At a clinic in Gisenyi run by the British charity Medical Emergency Relief International, a doctor said a two-year-old girl with severe diarrhoea, dehydration and malnutrition, died late Sunday.

A small child, separated from his parents, had the same problems and died in the early hours of Monday, he added.

Over a million Hutus fled Rwanda in mid-1994 after a rebel Tutsi army overran the country following the genocide of Tutsis by Hutu extremists. Many ended up in camps in eastern Zaire.

Fearing reprisals if they returned home, and terrified of the armed Hutu militants in their midst, the refugees stayed in their camps until an onslaught this month by Zairean rebels, including many Tutsis, forced the extremists to flee.

There are still around 215,000 refugees from the area unaccounted for after the fierce fighting of recent weeks, plus some 500,000 other refugees in the Bukavu area of eastern Zaire.

Thousands of Zaireans have also been displaced by the fighting.

Pakistan interim government leads corruption hunt into Bhutto team

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's interim government has stepped up pressure on the ousted administration of Benazir Bhutto with the detention of another ex-minister and a top intelligence official.

Nawaz Khokhar, science and technology minister in the sacked government, was taken into custody in the eastern provincial capital of Lahore late Sunday, officials said.

Mr. Khokhar, the second Bhutto minister to be detained since she was ousted on Nov. 5, was picked up by the Federal Investigation Agency, which looks into criminal cases.

The reasons for Mr. Khokhar's detention were not immediately known however.

Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, who was also her investment minister, was detained the day President Farooq Ahmad Leghari dismissed the prime minister, accusing her of corruption and presiding over a deadly misrule.

In his proclamation sacking Ms. Bhutto, the president had mentioned Mr. Khokhar's appointment, saying he was made a minister despite pending "criminal" charges.

Masood Sharif, chief of the country's intelligence bureau under the ousted government, has been arrested in connection with the last month's killing of deposed premier's brother Murtaza Bhutto.

The intelligence official, arrested on charges of involvement in the "murder" of Murtaza, will be produced before a magistrate in southern city of Karachi Monday, police said.

Murtaza and seven colleagues were killed in a police shootout near his Karachi residence on Sept. 20.

Mr. Sharif and eight police officials were accused by Murtaza's party of involvement in the killing in a complaint lodged with the police earlier this month.

Three accused police officials have already been held, two have gone into hiding and another three have been granted interim bail by a Karachi court.

Pakistan's 14-day old caretaker government has launched a drive to rid politics and the administration of corrupt elements ahead of new general election scheduled for Feb. 3.

Several Bhutto administration officials have already been detained for alleged financial and administrative wrong-doings and more are likely to be taken into custody.

The interim government headed by caretaker Prime Minister Malik Meraj Khalid proposes to set up tribunals of judges from superior courts to conduct trial of planned corruption cases.

Officials said the tribunals would be established under a new accountability law to be announced by the caretaker Law Minister Fakhruddin Ibrahim.

Mr. Khalid has said that those found guilty would stand disqualified from participating in the electoral process.

Ms. Bhutto has accused Mr. Leghari of sacking her because of "personal malice" and challenged her dismissal and the dissolution of the National Assembly at the Supreme Court.

Taiwan party drafts peace pact with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang (KMT, or Nationalist Party) Monday released a draft peace treaty with mainland China, and called for the swapping of representative offices between the two rivals.

The draft peace treaty was prepared by the director of the Diplomacy Department at Taiwan's National Chengchi University at the request of the ruling party's Policy Coordination Committee.

The paper, released through the state-funded Central News Agency (CNA), argues that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait can have their own definition of "one China" as long as they agree that Taiwan and China will reunify eventually.

Taiwan and China have remained rivals since the Nationalists were defeated by the Chinese Communists in a civil war in 1949 and fled to the island. In recent years, the Nationalist government in Taiwan has tried to ease hostility with the mainland.

"The two sides can swap representative missions to offset the current zero-sum confrontational situation," said the drafted agreement.

The drafted pact says the two sides must commit not to use military force as a tool for reunification, must respect each other's rights to be involved in international affairs, and resolve their disputes peacefully and in line with the United Nations charters.

Taiwan's mainland policy planning body, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), should be charged with dealing with China's Taiwan Affairs Office under the cabinet to swap representative missions and tackle other cross-strait issues, according to the draft accord.

The drafter, Lee Teng-Ke, said the peace pact would expand trade and investment activities between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, reduce their confrontation and unnecessary spendings in foreign and defense affairs.

KMT committee deputy director Lin Yu-Hsiang, said he would submit the draft to the KMT for study.

The release of the paper came a day after Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui renewed his offer to Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin to visit Taipei and for him to visit Beijing to talk with leaders there.

The president made the comment in a meeting with a group of visiting U.S. senators here shortly after they had visited China.

MAC Chairman Chang King-Yuh Monday told the senators that at the moment he saw no chance for a meeting between leaders of Taiwan and China due to Beijing's reluctance to resume talks.

Power struggle reportedly breaks out in India's Congress Party

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A power struggle has broken out in the Congress (I) over who should control the country's oldest political party, sources said Monday.

Former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao, who quit as prime minister after corruption allegations but has refused to abandon control of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), is on a collision course with new President Sitaram Kesri, they said.

They added Sonia Gandhi, the influential but reclusive Italian-born widow of assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was also involved in the battle.

"Congress President Sitaram Kesri is waging a proxy war on behalf of Mrs. Gandhi," a Rao loyalist told the Times of India newspaper Monday, on an alleged move to pressure the 75-year-old leader to relinquish his parliamentary position.

"Instead of asking Rao to step down as CPP leader, the combine will try to get its supporters elected to CPP posts and then build pressure on him to quit."

Another party official said on condition of anonymity that the highly-respected Sonia Gandhi would play a more active role in the Congress.

Mrs. Gandhi, universally called "Madam," has maintained a Garboesque profile despite repeated calls for her to take over the leadership of the Congress.

Messages like "bring in Sonia, save India" are commonly seen on hoardings in India, while many admirers have consistently urged her to join the party think-tank, the powerful Congress Working Committee (CWC).

"Even if Mrs. Gandhi does not join the CWC, as is being talked about in Congress circles, her stamp will be most visible in most Congress activities," the official said.

Mr. Kesri, meanwhile, is continuing efforts to reunite the Congress Party after years of increasing factionalism under Mr. Rao.

Mr. Rao, currently facing trial in three unrelated corruption cases, led Congress to its worst electoral defeat in its 111-year-old history in May, a disaster which ended Mr. Rao's five-year tenure as prime minister.

Mr. Kesri wants to woo back rebels who have broken away from Congress in recent years to form their own regional factions.

The Hindustan Times said Mr. Kesri revoked the 1993 expulsions of three prominent former members Sunday.

It said M.L. Fotedar and Sheila Dixit, both former federal ministers, and K.N. Dixit, the party's former general secretary, would be allowed to rejoin the party.

The three rebels, expelled after arguing party members should not be given more than one party post each, joined a rival faction called Congress (T).

A fortnight ago another former minister, Madhavrao Scindia, thrown out for fighting an election as an independent, was re-admitted after peace talks with Mr. Kesri.

Sri Lanka troops escalate search missions

COLOMBO (AFP) — Security forces have escalated their search and destroy missions against Tamil guerrillas in northeast Sri Lanka where arms caches have been discovered, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

Soldiers found 69 hand grenades from a hide out of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at Colombuthurai in the peninsula of Jaffna Sunday, the ministry said.

It said another 75 locally-made mortar bombs were found at another location within the Jaffna peninsula where security forces also fought a brief gun battle, leaving one Tiger wounded.

Another Tiger fighter was shot dead and his body was recovered together with an automatic assault rifle and ammunition in the adjoining district of Kilinochchi Sunday, the ministry said.

The sporadic clashes came as security forces remained on maximum alert for possible rebel attacks to mark the 42nd birthday of rebel supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran on Nov. 26, officials said.

The Tigers also mark a "heroes' week" in November to commemorate their dead fighters.

Officials said they had stepped up vigilance in the embattled northeast as well as in the capital Colombo to prevent attacks.

Thailand's NAP forms 6-party coalition

BANGKOK (AFP) — Outgoing Deputy Premier Chuan Leekpai said Monday his New Alliance Party (NAP) would lead a six-party coalition to form Thailand's next government.

He pledged to find experts and "people of quality" for the cabinet, an apparent reference to the previous government's perceived failure to find competent people for key positions, particularly economic ministries.

"Six parties have agreed to join the government," Mr. Chuan said, adding that the NAP would lead the coalition.

The parties won 221 of the 393 seats in parliament in Sunday's general election. They were NAP (125), Chart Pattana (52), Social Action Party (20), Pracharakorn Thai (18), Seritham (4) and Muonchon (2).

All but Chart Pattana were in the outgoing government. Mr. Chuan said he would turn to Chart Pattana after outgoing Premier Banham Silpa-archa apparently balked at the NAP's coalition plans.

Mr. Chuan said, deputy premier under Mr. Banham, was instrumental in the prime minister's fall in September when Mr. Banham's coalition allies demanded his resignation in exchange for their support in a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Mr. Banham dissolved parliament rather than hand over the premiership to Mr. Chuan Leekpai.

The NAP edged past the leading opposition Democrat Party led by former Premier Chuan Leekpai, by two seats, winning the right to try to form the next government.

On Sunday, before the official election returns were announced, the NAP leader posed with Mr. Banham and leaders of the Social Action, Pracharakorn Thai and Muonchon parties.

U.S. to make cautious pitch for rights in China

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (R) — The United States intends to make an aggressive pitch for human rights during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to China, officials said Sunday.

But as Mr. Christopher left Washington for the highest-level U.S. visit to China in more than two years, U.S. officials signalled a desire to avoid the kind of confrontation on human rights that marred the secretary's first, and last, visit there in March 1994.

Unlike the previous trip, Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck, the top U.S. policymaker on human rights, was not expected to meet any pro-democracy activists while he is with Mr. Christopher in Beijing on Nov. 20-21, state department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Mr. Burns noted that the United States was disappointed that a Chinese appeal court had upheld Chinese dissident Wang Dan's jail sentence.

And while Mr. Burns said Mr. Christopher "will be raising this issue (of human rights) aggressively" in talks with Chinese leaders, the spokesman would not say if the secretary would address the Wang case specifically.

Mr. Burns briefed reporters on the secretary's U.S. air force jet.

Mr. Christopher, whose plane stopped in Alaska near Fairbanks to refuel, was to spend the night in Sapporo, Japan and then arrive in Beijing Tuesday night. On Wednesday, he holds day-long talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

U.S.-China ties took a sharp turn for the worse during Mr. Christopher's four-year tenure in President (Bill) Clinton's first term.

With Mr. Clinton now re-elected to a second term, Mr. Burns said Mr. Christopher was making the trip to "leave to his successor a relationship that's even, balanced and moving forward."

In addition to human rights, Mr. Christopher's talks with Chinese officials are expected to cover trade, arms sales and non-proliferation, Taiwan, Hong Kong, tensions on the Korean peninsula and the environment. But expectations for progress are low.

The goal is to ensure that the two world powers, after a tense period of minimal contact, have resumed a regular and intensive dialogue that will bring "balance and predictability to the relationship," Mr. Burns said.

There is an expectation "1997 will be the most active year in U.S.-China relations in the Clinton administration," he said.

Mr. Clinton is to meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Manila on Nov. 24 on the fringes of the Asia Pacific economic forum summit. Mr. Burns said he did not know if specific dates for an exchange of summits in their respective capitals would be announced by the two leaders at that time.

The presumption has been that Vice-President Al Gore would visit Beijing in the first half of 1997, Jiang would come to Washington next and lastly, maybe not until 1998, Mr. Clinton would go to the Chinese capital.

Wang, a leader of the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, was jailed after a military crackdown on the protesters but was released in 1993 after international appeals.

Now he has been jailed for 11 more years on charges of subversion. A Chinese court rejected his appeal Friday.

Coming just days before Mr. Christopher's visit, the action was seen by many as another sharp warning to Washington not to press Beijing on human rights. But, some U.S. officials insist the action is more related to internal Chinese politics.

5 Kashmiris reported killed by Indian shelling

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (R) — Indian mortar fire killed five civilians in the Pakistan-controlled portion of Kashmir at the weekend, Pakistani military and government officials said Monday.

A Pakistan army spokesman said three people died Sunday in Athmaga, 80 kilometres northeast of the Azad (Free) Kashmir state capital Muzaffarabad, when a mortar round fired by Indian border forces struck a hotel.

Azad Kashmir's animal husbandry minister, Ghulam Rasool, said a separate mortar attack Sunday killed two people and wounded 14 in Mirpura village, 35 kilometres northeast of Muzaffarabad.

Mr. Rasool said Indian mortar fire continued for more than an hour in various parts of the Neelum Valley, which straddles the ceasefire line dividing the Indian and Pakistani portions of Kashmir.

"More than 150,000 inhabitants of the valley have virtually become captives as their movement has been restricted due to frequent Indian shelling," Mr. Rasool said.

The main Neelum Valley road has been closed since 1994 because of Indian shelling, which also threatens a bypass road built to ensure safe passage for traffic.

"Even the bypass road has been closed for the last eight days," Mr. Rasool said. At least two dozen of the 150 villages in the 200-kilometres long Neelum Valley were targets for Indian gunners, he added.

The army spokesman said Indian firing had killed at least 10 Kashmiris in the past 10 days. He said Pakistani forces had returned fire Sunday, but there was no word on Indian casualties.

Mr. Rasool, who represents Neelum Valley in the Azad Kashmir Constituent Assembly, said Indian forces had intensified mortar fire in the area since state assembly elections were held in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

(Continued from page 1)
that has developed between the government and the opposition after the lifting of the blockade.
"I know that (the fundamental reforms in the economic restructuring process) are painful to you just as they are painful to me. But what else can we do if reform is the only way to save the country?" Mr. Kabariti said.
But the prime minister stressed that the government was counting on the awareness of the people in ensuring the success of the reform process.
After the economic setbacks resulting from regional factors, such as the Gulf war, we had to take courageous steps to stop the deterioration," Mr. Kabariti said.

(Continued from page 1)
primary law in November of the same year.
Government officials agree that a majority of members in Parliament are opposed to changing the one-person, one-vote formula. It is only because they are their seats in Parliament on the basis of that formula.
The 57 deputies who voted in favour of the Kabariti government during the vote of confidence session reject any change to the formula," said one official. "The government sees no reason for changing that formula and thus losing the majority support in Parliament either."

(Continued from page 1)
seek the peace process and earn to an atmosphere of "the peace call for the construction of 12 new houses, a country club, a school and a study centre for



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Editorial and advertising offices:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
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Political life's new tone

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech from the Throne today, on the opening of the fourth and last session of the 12th Parliament, should be expected to set a new political tone for political life in the country based on our experiences in and lessons we learned from the democratisation process. Informed sources say that the thrust of the King's submissions for political reforms will focus on the strict separation of the three branches of government in a bid to enhance and energise the system of checks and balances, which is central to strengthening democracy. No one, of course, is talking here about the judiciary on whose role and function there is widespread agreement, at least on the need for it to be totally independent of the executive and legislative branches. As a matter of fact, there is a growing consensus that the independence of the judiciary should be further consolidated by removing all semblance of control over high court appointments by the executive branch.

It is rather the evident "overlapping" between the legislative and the executive branches of government, which usually has found expression in the formation of cabinets from members of Lower House, that is expected to take centre stage in the Monarch's speech. On this particular score, there are divisions in the country on the pros and cons of complete separation of Parliament from the executive. What makes the debate on the issue that much more complex is the lack of international consensus on whether to assign portfolios to deputies of the ruling party or parties in Parliament. There are several parliamentary democracies which subscribe to the notion of an organic link between the legislature and the executive, on top of which is Great Britain.

It will be noticed that many countries which follow the British system of government "developed a sophisticated political party system" that is not always found in fledgling democracies. Still even when a parliamentary rule in any given country is mature and well developed, the system of "fusing" the two branches of government is never without its drawbacks and flaws. Here in Jordan the choice between one style of parliamentary democracy and another is clearly not a simple matter and the debate on it is not yet crystallised. On the one hand, Jordan still has to develop a viable political party system, and on the other, Parliament has yet to consolidate its powers and extend its jurisdiction to enable it to stand up to the executive branch as equal partner in governing.

It may also be noted that appointing deputies cabinet members has further weakened the stature of the legislature and eroded its political clout vis-a-vis the cabinet. The trend to appease certain elements in parliament by assigning them portfolios irrespective of their abilities has in turn weakened the performance of the cabinet. It seems to us that what should determine our choice in the final analysis is the kind of people's representatives that the system can produce, which in turn depends largely on the method of selection in place. If deputies are elected on the basis of a flawed election law, as the current one is, then it would make little difference which way we opt to go in separating or fusing the two estates.

The only way to have a truly representative and effective parliament is to conduct national elections on the basis of a fair and equitable election law that meets international standards. This, we suggest, is the heart of the matter. The existing election law obviously falls short of the requirements of international norms and our own aspirations in more ways than one. Once there is in place a parliament that is truly representative of the people, then the preference for a complete separation of parliament from the executive would become more defensible. If political reforms are overdue, they need to be conducted in a uniform and integrated manner. We cannot aim to reform one dimension of parliamentary life without amending for the better the other aspects of it. In other words, we need package-deal reforms before we are able to champion one style of parliamentary democracy over another.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN HIS column published in Al Ra'i Monday, economist Fahed Faneh supported the idea of fixing the minimum wage of workers in Jordan as suggested by Labour Minister Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh and said that such a move will benefit many of the workers who live under the poverty line. If the poverty line is considered at a JD 120 monthly wage for a normal family in Jordan, then, at least, the minimum wage for a worker should not fall below that level, said the writer who noted that many workers are not earning as much at present. Families living under the poverty line in Jordan account for 18 per cent of the population, according to recent estimates, said the writer who stressed that raising the workers' wages to the JD 120 level is very logical indeed if the country wants to deal with poverty. Of course, skilled workers and those with vast experience could continue to earn far more, but that depends on supply and demand in the labour market, added the writer. However, fixing minimum wages for workers might lead to negative results, like less demand by employers on workers, but, said the writer, setting minimum wage rates for workers is a humanitarian-motivated gesture that ought to be accepted by employers and the public at large.

The View from Fourth Circle

Statistics, poverty and the race between diligence and despair

By Rami G. Khouri

IF ANY single issue threatens all the countries in the Middle East — and fuels destabilising political protest movements — it is the issue of poverty and declining living standards. This simultaneously causes personal suffering and the unravelling of families and communities, prompts a psychological cycle of anger, fear and despair, drives people to extremism and violence and, in some cases, leads to authoritarianism, widespread disorder or even national collapse. We must address this phenomenon much more seriously than we have done to date in the Arab World, or else risk a cycle of disorder in coming decades that will make recent Arab national turbulence — remember Lebanon, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan and others — seem like child's play in comparison.

The issue of poverty and living standards in Jordan accurately mirrors the trends of our wider region. My colleague and friend, the always exciting columnist Fahed Faneh, has challenged the developmental community and its political decision-making compatriots in Jordan to come to terms with it more adequately — stating in recent columns in the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that the real living standard of Jordanians has dropped 47 per cent in the last decade. This figure represents the decline in per capita real private consumption, based on official Jordanian statistics published by the Central Bank. Per capita real private consumption at constant 1985 prices (i.e. adjusted for inflation) declined from JD 667 in 1985 to JD 352 in 1995, he said.

At about the same time that Dr. Faneh was doing his calculations, I was also reviewing economic statistics for Jordan for the period 1980-1995, in preparation for some lectures and articles. My calculations show some equally worrying trends — though we should beware that the precise meaning of these statistics remains unclear, because they can be calculated in different ways and selectively manipulated.

My calculations show that gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at constant 1985 prices, calculated in dollar terms, declined in the last decade by an even higher rate than real private consumption — it dropped by 59 per cent, from \$2,244 in 1985 to \$908 in 1995; this reflects three factors that have ravaged Arab economies since the mid-1980s, namely economic slowdown, currency devaluations, and population increases. In dollar terms, though, GDP per capita at constant 1985 prices dropped by just 16 per cent, from JD 748 to JD 626.

In current dinar prices (i.e., disregarding rising inflation and declining foreign exchange values) GDP per capita increased by 103 per cent in the 1985-1995 decade, from JD 528 to JD 1,076; in dollar terms, GDP per capita in current prices was virtually unchanged over the last decade (it

actually dropped very nominally, from \$1,585 in 1985 to \$1,561 in 1995).

Over a longer time span, from 1980 to 1995, gross national product (GNP) at current prices increased by 271 per cent, population increased by 92 per cent, and per capita GNP at current prices increased by 93 per cent (from JD 543 in 1980 to JD 1,049 in 1995).

Per capita income figures are notoriously tricky beasts, and may or may not adequately reflect real quality-of-life conditions. A cursory scanning of other statistical indicators for Jordan over the last decade indicates that while our real income has been sliding badly, other quality-of-life indicators have improved or slipped only slightly.

For example, per capita water supply for household and municipal purposes (excluding agriculture) increased in the period 1985-1994, from 34 to 53 cubic metres per person. Per capita electricity consumed increased from .000796 gigawatt hours to .001045 GWH, and life expectancy at birth increased from 60 to 66 years; but, per capita domestic fuels consumption dropped slightly, from 1.05 to .9 metric tonnes per year.

So there you are — a nice, varied and often dramatic collection of statistics to choose from, readily available to support the very opposite arguments that the Jordanian economy is either in great shape or is collapsing steadily. The data is complemented by an equally diverse array of personal attitudes — from those who thank God daily for the good fortune of being Jordanian, to those who bemoan the cruel and unusual punishment of living in the vortex of a beleaguered economy suffering the cumulative consequences of dependence, frailty, corruption and incompetence.

We are aided in our attempt to assess our economic realities by several impressive and timely studies about poverty in Jordan and the wider Middle East, recently published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). These studies — entitled Poverty in Western Asia: A Social Perspective, and Impact of Selected Macroeconomics and Social Policies on Poverty, the case of Egypt, Jordan and the Republic of Yemen — review a wealth of data and draw several conclusions. The most interesting ones, I thought, were that: a) poverty in this region resulted from a combination of domestic policy orientations and destabilising external political and military events; b) poverty's roots can be traced to distortions between political, economic, social and cultural policies within individual countries; c) rapid rural-to-urban migration, combined with an unsustainable, state-subsidised welfare approach to social development, resulted in deteriorating economic and living conditions for large numbers of people after state budgets flirted with

insolvency in the 1980s; and, d) the recent increases in poverty are only marginally due to the impact of the economic reforms and structural adjustment policies adopted by most Arab states and promoted and assisted by the World Bank and the IMF (on the contrary, ESCWA states, economic reforms will lower poverty in the long run, by promoting economic competitiveness and long-term growth; this sounds logical, but remains largely untested and is yet to be convincingly proven on a wide scale).

The ESCWA reports also confirm two key points that analysts, political economists and other such folks, including myself, have been raising for years: that the anticipated surge in private investments that would fuel long-term growth has not materialised as expected, or as fast as expected, and that "state-run social safety nets and social funds are not a substitute for a comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy, and should not be treated as one."

A third noteworthy point in the reports is about the imprecise duration of the transition period for economic reform and adjustment — a transition period during which poverty and unemployment increase, before growth is rekindled at a high rate that ultimately lowers unemployment and poverty. The transition period seems to drag on for much longer in practice than may have been anticipated by the economic theorists or government officials who launch these adjustment policies. I say this as a fundamental supporter of the need for economic adjustment — but a brand of adjustment that targets human equity and dignity along with growth rates and private sector profitability.

The available macroeconomics data and studies by ESCWA and others should prompt us to refocus political energy and social/economic policies in a manner that targets the poor and unemployed more rigorously. Jordan exemplifies both the strengths and weaknesses of modern Arab state policies, which promoted steady growth for many decades but have had to manage equally sustained slippage since the post-1983 regional recession. The contradictory statistics on living standards I mentioned above should cause us to address this issue more honestly, more openly, and with much more precision, humility and compassion.

The statistics, other social and economic indicators (child labour, bounced checks, home thefts, penchant to emigrate) and the widespread verbal expressions of people's immediate wants and long-term fears, all cry out for more diligence in making poverty alleviation in the Arab countries an urgent social and economic priority — before poverty returns in the future to devastate us as an explosive political time-bomb.

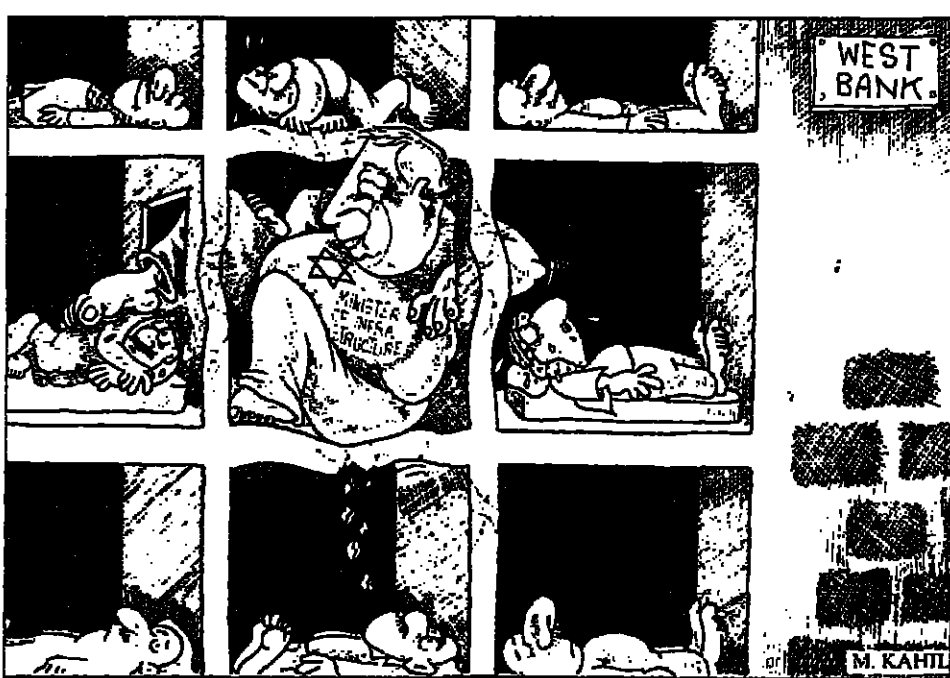
Jerusalem is wild card in 'renegotiations' over Hebron

By Farida Salfiti

THE PALESTINIAN approach to the question of Jerusalem is in need of revision. Palestinians need to think of ways to reintroduce the Jerusalem question on the political map, and to develop mechanisms for a new strategy that goes beyond a purely defensive posture into the realm of an offensive strategy aimed at retaking control of their part of the city. Jerusalem is a winning card: its use could only bring benefits to the Palestinians. If the authorities cannot move ahead immediately, then Jerusalemites as well as other Arabs and Muslims must move to put pressure on Israel regarding its policy in the Arab city.

The Israeli "demographic" offensive in the city is fierce, with dangerous ramifications for Palestinian rights in Jerusalem. Israel's actions preclude the Palestinians from remaining silent on Jerusalem until the final status negotiations, as stipulated in the Oslo agreements. These negotiations began in May 1996, but have been stalled by the new Likud government. Israel's current approach to Oslo, stalling at every opportunity, gives no reason for optimism that these negotiations might be started again anytime soon. If Israel is to succeed in renegotiating the Oslo terms regarding Hebron, then that should prove the exception and not the rule and Palestinians must demand a quid pro quo: renegotiating Hebron in return for opening the Jerusalem question now.

The outbreak of violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem last month, triggered by the opening of a controversial tunnel adjacent to Islamic and Jewish religious sites, had, in fact, little to do with the tunnel. Frustration with the lack of progress on the peace front and the deteriorating economic welfare of the Palestinians after repeated and lengthy closures aside, the tunnel reflects Israel's determination to alter the city's demographics by either pushing out its Arab inhabitants or making life so unbearable for them that



they are made to leave.

Israel is working daily on creating facts on the ground that aim at imposing a new political reality which would influence the final status negotiations. Israel, for many years now, has been implementing a racist policy of ethnic cleansing in the city: this is being pursued with even greater vehemence by the new right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu, which is irrevocably changing realities on the ground. This will render any final status negotiations over the city meaningless, contrary to Oslo stipulation that neither side should prejudice the outcome of these negotiations. And Israel is doing just that, as the Arab inhabitants are being evicted from Jerusalem.

Netanyahu's government has accelerated the implementation of inflammatory policies (introduced by former Labour governments, not to be forgotten) of changing the demographic map of the city. Policies include demolition of Arab houses "illegally" built, surreptitious confiscation of identity cards of Arab residents of Jerusalem, ostensibly for technical reasons, confiscation of Arab land to make room for Jewish houses, and the continued suffocation of the city from all sides by Israeli settlements, strangling natural Arab growth within the city.

Furthermore, Israel is changing the curriculum used in the Arab schools in Jerusalem. Thus the city population is being culturally and educationally severed from the West Bank, and the city cut off its natural Arab hinterland. The closures, meant to disconnect Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian territories, serve no less sinister a purpose: removing any economic and political continuity that exists. Jerusalem has always been a cosmopolitan city that depends on the surrounding regions to a large extent. Because of the closures, many businesses are moving to Ramallah and other areas, at the expense of politics.

The Likud cites as a political success forcing Arafat to succumb to Israeli pressures to close down three offices of the Palestinian National Authority in Jerusalem, moving them outside the city. These measures will be accompanied by other steps, such as widening the activities of the Israeli police and Israeli security forces in East Jerusalem. All are designed to prove horrifyingly "true" the Israeli claims that Jerusalem is the "eternal, undivided capital of Israel."

Today, the final strategic phases are being implemented to impose Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem and complete the settlement circle in order to "purify" the

city of its Arab inhabitants.

Moreover, concentrating on talk of control of the city's "religious" sites and the dispute over which party controls them administratively merely obviates the underpinning reason for the conflict over Jerusalem: political sovereignty.

To adhere to the Oslo accords and leave Jerusalem to the final status negotiations is self-destructive. The question of Hebron was reopened, and so should Jerusalem's be. Israel's creating facts on the ground is also contrary to Oslo, which stipulates that the final status outcome should not be prejudiced. To succumb to Israeli demands that Jerusalem be negotiated last only allows Israel sufficient time to complete and cement its Judaisation of the city. This will weaken any bargaining position the Palestinians might have at the negotiating table. It also signals a sure death to any Arab aspirations of retaining the Palestinian demographic nature of East Jerusalem and the Palestinians' political dream of having the city serve as a future Palestinian state's capital.

Israel must not be allowed to renegotiate clauses of the Oslo agreement; they are bad enough not to be renegotiated to force Palestinians to make further concessions they can ill-afford, as the case of redeployment in

Hebron. Hebron must not set a precedent, but negotiations over Jerusalem must begin now, before it is truly too late. It is that element of time which the Israelis are banking on as their trump card in negotiations over Jerusalem. The Palestinians need to preempt Israeli moves.

Coordination between Palestine and Jordan is paramount. There is need to come to an understanding on a common strategy, among themselves and the Arabs in general, rather than to be subjected to Israeli manipulation. Let the Israelis' renegotiated Hebron be the Palestinians' Jerusalem.

LETTERS

Unholy prejudice

To the Editor:

Before visiting Jerusalem last week, I braced myself for prejudice and an emotional grip. I anticipated the rude Israel border patrol, who would thoroughly enjoy probing through my friends' underwear, tasting their toothpaste and firing mocking questions at them.

However, the last thing I expected was prejudice from the Arab gatekeeper of the Muslim holy shrines. As a Circassian-Jordanian, I was rather surprised when the gatekeeper denied my entry into the Al Aqsa Mosque. Though I was covered, he blocked the gate and said: "You are not a Muslim."

Confused, I could only ask why, as I handed him my Jordanian passport and swore to him that I was indeed a Muslim. Yet this man judged my religion from my physical features.

When I became insistent, he consulted into his walkie-talkie and asked: "Can you read the Quran?" "I'm just now learning Arabic, so I cannot read the Quran," I replied.

"Then you may not enter," he smiled, like a clerk at an exclusive country club.

I laughed at this prejudiced man, and he laughed back and actually stuck out his tongue.

All of this happened under the curious eyes of an Israeli soldier who was also "guarding" the Muslim gate.

What an excellent example of Muslim solidarity in front of an Israeli!

Having lived most of my life in the United States, I really wanted to learn Islam, my father's religion. I had thought Jerusalem would be an excellent place to begin.

Yet, there was this impolite, irrational judgment at the holy gate.

I expected this from the Israelis, but not from a fellow Muslim.

Hasn't His Majesty the King, and Jordan, contributed enough to the holy sites as to allow the entrance of a Jordanian Muslim woman to Al Aqsa mosque?

Tanya Habbjouqa,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Kabariti

(Continued from page 1)
that has developed between the government and the opposition after the lifting of subsidies.

"I know that (the fundamental reforms in the economic restructuring process) are painful to you just as they are painful to me. But what else can we do if (reform) is the only way to save the country?" Mr. Kabariti said.

But the prime minister stressed that the government was counting on the awareness of the people in ensuring the success of the reform process.

After the economic setbacks resulting from regional factors such as the Gulf war, "we had to take courageous steps to stop the deterioration," Mr. Kabariti said.

Election

(Continued from page 1)

temporary law in November of the same year.

Government officials argue that a majority of members in Parliament are opposed to changing the one-person, one-vote formula if only because they won their seats in Parliament on the basis of that formula.

"The 57 deputies who voted in favour of the Kabariti government during the vote of confidence session reject any change to the formula," said one official. "The government sees no reason for changing that formula and thus losing the majority support in Parliament either."

Settlement

(Continued from page 1)

wreck the peace process and return to an atmosphere of war.

The plan call for the construction of 1,200 new homes, a country club, a senior citizens' home, a field school and a study centre for

"So we started to reduce expenditure and fight favouritism and financial and administrative corruption."

Mr. Kabariti said the economic reform process was beginning to show results, announcing that Jordan this year achieved an economic growth of six per cent.

"Despite the short period (that the government has spent in office) the pains and the obstacles that we have faced, I feel that the worst is behind us and we only have to persevere and be patient so that we achieve what we want," the prime minister said.

Noting that economic growth cannot be achieved without political stability, Mr. Kabariti pointed to the political uncertainties that had engulfed the region for decades, slowing economic growth.

Dr. Muasher meanwhile pointed out that the one-person, one-vote was a principle followed "successfully in every democratic country in the world and seen as rightly reflecting the choice of the people."

"We don't see why Jordan should be an exception," said the minister.

It is widely expected that a new election law or major amendments to the 1993 legislation will be introduced before the next parliamentary elections, due in November 1997.

The government has said that it would not introduce draft law or proposed amendments without a national consensus on the scope of the changes.

"We are committed to consulting closely with Parliament members, political

But, he said, the peace process is starting to lead to some positive results despite the difficulties it is facing.

"We believe that peace was the inevitable conclusion to this (Arab-Israeli) conflict. We believe that peace is the strategic, the only choice for all countries of the region," said the prime minister.

But Mr. Kabariti said that "changes in certain countries directly involved with the peace process influence the (peace process) in a way that impedes economic growth but only for short periods."

"My government lives with you sufferings, hopes, aspirations and demands just as it does with the people of all parts of the Kingdom," Mr. Kabariti said.

"I know that there are pressing priorities...and my government will place your

parties and activists as well as institutions before moving in any direction," Dr. Muasher reaffirmed, noting that one of the pledges that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti made in his policy statement to the legislature was close cooperation and consultation between the executive and legislative authorities.

Dr. Muasher also said the government had drafted several draft bills to be presented to Parliament during its regular session that begins today, Tuesday.

There are two groups of laws, he explained. The first concerns economy and moves designed to advance Jordan's quest for liberalisation and investment by making the local economic climate attractive to foreign and local capital. This

group includes draft laws on companies, customs, securities and anti-monopoly.

The second group is related to public freedoms and official media. This will include amendments to the Press and Publications Law as well as draft laws that "disassociate or disengage" the government from state media institutions like Jordan Television and Radio and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Muasher said.

The draft laws that he mentioned "are not inclusive but a general summary" of the bills that the government is keen to have endorsed by Parliament as soon as possible, he added.

since right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu overturned a four-year freeze on settlement construction after taking power in June.

Israeli media reports said in August that Mr. Netanyahu had approved construction of between 2,000 and 3,500 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

needs on top of its priorities," the prime minister said, adding that "we will work to enhance cooperation...solidarity and tolerance" so that the country becomes self-reliant.

Attending the celebrations were members of the Council of Ministers and all members of Parliament representing Karak Governorate except Deputy Nazih Ammarin.

Dr. Ammarin has submitted his resignation to the legislature citing a dispute he had with Prime Minister Kabariti during the August riots. It was reported that Mr. Kabariti and Dr. Ammarin had reconciled, but the deputy denied the reports. Parliament is expected to review the resignation during the regular session it begins today. The legislature could accept or reject the resignation.

"We have thus started the interaction, communication, dialogue and selective cooperation that we have been seeking with the North Atlantic grouping, and we join our brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania, each of which have recently achieved the status we have now earned."

Peres

(Continued from page 12)
Labour legislator Uzi Baram.

Mr. Netanyahu bristled when asked whether he himself had leaked the allegations against Mr. Peres.

"That's not worthy of a response," he said, adding that he called Mr. Peres on Sunday to assure him that he did not suspect him of any machinations.

Labour's young guard movement felt someone in Mr. Netanyahu's 18-member cabinet should be held accountable. Young guard activists bought 10 rabbits — the pet store did not have 48 — and brought them in a cage to parliament. "Let's uncover the cowardly minister," said a sign on the cage.

These include further Israeli redeployments from the West Bank, the release of Palestinian political prisoners, the establishment of

King

(Continued from page 1)

efforts over the long years through which we exerted strenuous efforts have finally materialised. We have just occupied the rank that our competent Armed Forces deserve.

"The response of the president of the United States crowned these fruitful efforts. The announcement that President Clinton has made opens the doors wide open for our Armed Forces for development and modernisation through acquisition of their defence requirements, and material and resources to implement their plans and programmes for research and technology transfer. We hope that the rest of the North Atlantic grouping will soon follow the example of the United States."

"We have thus started the interaction, communication, dialogue and selective cooperation that we have been seeking with the North Atlantic grouping, and we join our brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania, each of which have recently achieved the status we have now earned."

Refugees

(Continued from page 12)

in the establishment of the State of Israel.

"Israelis insist on narrowing the definition of 'displaced' and minimising their number," he added. Noting that the adoption of a definition will determine who holds the right to return, Dr. Abdul Rahman said "even if Israelis are trying to close their eyes, (the Arabs) will keep struggling until common sense, if not justice, prevails."

U.N. Resolution 194 upholds Palestinian refugees' right of return or to receive compensation. "Figures on compensation (owed to Palestinian refugees) have not been mentioned. But the amount should be consistent enough to mark a shift in the refugees' life standards from poverty to a dignified life," Dr. Abdul Hajeh said, adding that "the responsi-

bility to pay compensation is exclusively on Israeli shoulders."

He also suggested the establishment of an "international commission to quantify the material and moral suffering and losses of the refugees."

When any reference to U.N. resolution 194 was omitted in the final document of last May's Taba conference, which launched the Palestinian-Israeli final status negotiations, many observers complained that such omission would have weakened Palestinians' stand in the negotiations.

But Dr. Abdul Rahman rejected that contention. "I do not see much difference between referring to 'international and U.N. resolutions' in general, as it is the case in the Taba declaration, and referring to 'U.N. resolution 194' in particular, as many said we should have done," he said.

He also suggested that the "big fuss" which surround-

Refugees

(Continued from page 12)

free-passage corridors from autonomy areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the resumption of negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories.

Israel in turn has demanded that Mr. Arafat provide written assurances he will respect Palestinian commitments under the Oslo agreements, notably a pledge to crack down on violent anti-Israeli groups.

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Six weeks of intensive negotiations have failed to yield agreement on the Israeli demands.

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respond to anti-Israeli attacks.

Differences also persist over the kind of arms the Palestinian police will be able to carry in the city and freedom of movement along a road running near Hebron's Jewish enclaves.

But Mr. Abbas said "all these issues are being dealt with in a serious manner and both sides are striving to reach a solution."

It was unclear when the next round of talks would take place.

"Qatar supports the Palestinian position in these difficult negotiations and we support the clear Palestinian right (...) and we call on Israel to implement these agreements without delay," said Sheikh Hamad after talks with Mr. Arafat.

Sheikh Hamad also confirmed Qatar had frozen its process of normalisation with the Jewish state. "As long as there is no progress on the Palestinian and other tracks, Qatar will freeze its relations with Israel," he said.

Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

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Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf Arab states to have established trade ties with Israel but Qatar announced last week it was suspending the links pending movement in the peace process.

Mr. Arafat's top deputy and chief negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, said the main hurdle in negotiations with Israel now concerned the wording of a written pledge sought from Mr. Netanyahu that the Hebron handover will be followed by implementation of other outstanding aspects of the 1995 Oslo accords on self-rule.

These include further Israeli redeployments from the West Bank, the release of Palestinian political prisoners, the establishment of

free-passage corridors from autonomy areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the resumption of negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories.

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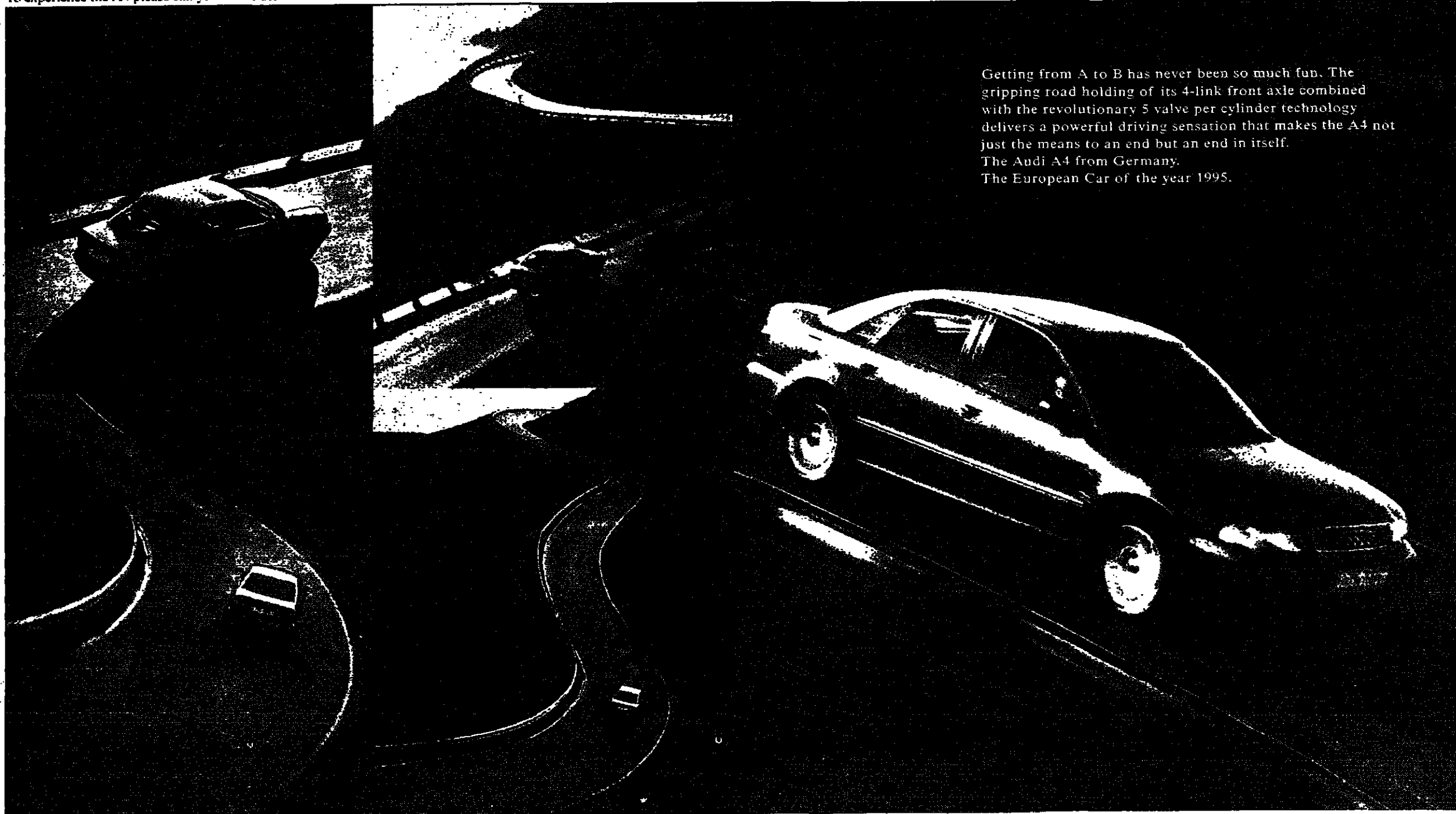
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Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

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Jordanian trucks will be allowed to transport goods directly to destinations in Israel

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel has agreed to allow Jordanian trucks to transport goods directly between the two countries without going through Israeli inspections that include lengthy loading and reloading procedures, officials from both sides said Monday.

They said both sides had agreed that security inspection of the vehicles and cargo would be carried out by Jordanian officials on the Kingdom's side of the crossing.

If the new arrangement, which is limited to Jordanian trucks headed for Israel, is successful, it will be followed by a similar move on Jordanian vehicles entering the Palestinian territories, the officials said.

The agreement is expected to take effect after a meeting between Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb and his Israeli counterpart Natan Sharansky in early December, said Israeli embassy spokesman Shalom Tourgenan.

It will be the second meet-

ing between Mr. Abul Ragheb and Mr. Sharansky in three weeks. They met on the fringes of the Nov. 13-15 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Cairo and discussed means to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two sides.

At that meeting, the Israeli side confirmed that it was expanding the scope of products that the two sides would offer duty-free treatment and other items which are covered under tariffs. Finalisation of these agreements is expected at the Abul Ragheb-Sharansky meeting.

An end to cumbersome Israeli security inspection of Jordanian goods is expected to remove what the government and businessmen describe as a major hurdle in Jordanian-Israeli trade.

Present arrangements call for the unloading of the entire consignment at the Jordanian side of crossing point from the Jordanian vehicle and reloading onto an Israeli vehicle on the other side of the crossing. This often leads to lengthy delays, and, in some cases, to total loss of perishable

goods. "Israel has agreed to accept Jordanian security inspection of the vehicles and goods since it is satisfied with the Jordanian procedures," said Mr. Tourgenan. "There is very good cooperation between Jordan and Israel on security issues," he added.

In the beginning, the new arrangement will be applicable only to Jordanian exports to Israel.

"Once this arrangement is found to be working well, it will set a precedent and will be expanded to include Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories passing through Israeli-controlled land," the spokesman added.

Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor, speaking to the Jordan Times on the sidelines of the MENA conference in Cairo, said Israel expected a dramatic improvement in the flow of goods between Jordan and the Jewish state once U.S.-supplied equipment is placed on the crossings.

The equipment, worth about \$100 million, was promised by the U.S. following a spate of suicide bomb-

ings by Palestinian militants that killed 59 people in Israel in February and March.

The equipment will mainly include "drive-through" weapon and explosive detectors. Screening of a large truck is expected to be completed in less than 15 minutes.

Mr. Meridor said Israel expects to place some of the equipment at the crossing points to check all vehicles entering its territory.

"I cannot tell you when exactly the equipment will be in place, but it will be soon, and once it is installed we expect a much smoother flow of goods in and out of Israel," he said.

According to Mr. Meridor, "the scope of Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation and trade is immense if we work out the right arrangements that are satisfactory to both sides."

The Israeli minister said "bureaucratic delays" were "not much of a problem" when compared with Israel's sense of its needs for "security."

But, he added, this was not a major concern when dealing with Jordan.

Iraqi dinar gains against dollar

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi dinar gained against the U.S. dollar and prices of essential foodstuffs fell slightly, traders and money dealers said Monday.

Iraq's dinar currency soared to 1,550 to the dollar from about 1,780 on Sunday and money dealers are expecting a further surge in the volatile currency.

The rise in the value of the dinar has already sent down prices of essential commodities.

A kilogramme of sugar went down to 700 dinars from 850 on Sunday, a kilogramme of flour was sold at

500, down from 600, and a kilogramme of rice, stable diet of most Iraqis, fetched 500 down from 650.

Traders attributed the surge in the value of the dinar to a news report in Iraq's official newspapers on Monday saying that Turkey would double its trade volume with Baghdad.

The papers, quoting Turkish officials, said Turkey had expanded a border point with Iraq to handle more trucks loaded with foodstuffs to the sanctions-hit Iraq.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Higher Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can benefit today from the extension of your interests and make fascinating new acquaintances. Later this evening you can consult with fellow associates concerning career activities which are important to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do whatever your mate desires today and then state your own wishes. Later this evening go after the articles you desire so that you can use this information in order to make your career activities more successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day today to contact those who are attracted to you and make their efforts towards business activities more beneficial. Do something to truly impress them to the point where you will gain recognition by a bigwig.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make your home more charming today for those who live there and especially for invited guests. Listen to a fellow associate has to suggest about a new project and use this information to proceed in the direction of success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan today for recreation and desire much happiness for your loved ones from it. This can later this evening be a most romantic day with the one you loved, especially if you do some special service for him or her.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home today needs a thorough going-over, so that it will look like new, especially for those who visit. Your ideas are fine later this evening for this, so make the effort to clean up your residence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Making new contacts is wise today, so it would be a good idea to see as many fellow associates as possible for you to become prosperous. Show appreciation to those who have been loyal to you with some special presentation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Seek a raise in pay for all the efforts you have put in with some new project. One who has much experience can give you fine advice if you go after it later this evening and you are able to proceed with career activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able today to pursue your intimate goals enthusiastically and gain them easily with the assistance of knowledgeable people. Later this evening you can meet with close friends and have a fun time together.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Go after your ambitions today in a positive manner, which will allow you to proceed in a successful direction, be cheerful for best results. Be with the one you love tonight and have a very romantic time together.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your gregarious self today and see many friends and allies so that you will enjoy the time together. This will accomplish more than you think towards you being successful in your career objectives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle outside career activities — be it vocational or civic or concerning credit — and get everything arranged nicely. Later this evening you can spend some quality time with your mate and have a romantic time together.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

Food summit fails to resolve bickering over trade

ROME (R) — World leaders unanimously decried hunger last week but a five-day U.N. food summit ended Sunday as it began — deeply divided over whether free trade is the best way to offer hope to more than 800 million undernourished.

Like virtually all gatherings where rural incomes are at stake, the world's first food summit left images of wealthy nations at odds with developing countries and squabbling with each other over trade.

"Emerging agriculture has everything to fear from excessive liberalisation," French Farm Minister Philippe Vasseur, taking a swipe at France's old trade foe the United States, said Saturday.

The United States, backed by the World Bank and Australia, issued a robust call at the summit for free trade to attack hunger's root causes of poverty and instability. It told both rich and poor nations they needed more of the market's medicine.

But summit star Fidel Castro of Cuba captured the hearts of many developing nations when he roared Saturday against "capitalism, neo-liberalism, the laws of a wild market," debt and underdevelopment that he said were killing the world's poor.

As the veteran communist returned to his seat, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom accused the West of hoarding and then dumping its own food while millions faced starvation.

"Such unethical, immoral and irresponsible practices must be stopped," he declared.

The organiser of the "other summit" of non-governmental organisations complained Sunday that the main meeting had lacked the courage to face up to the laws of the market.

"Not only is world trade incapable of resolving food insecurity, it is also often at the origin of it," Antonio Onorati said.

The timing of the summit,

which opened Wednesday with an appeal by Pope John Paul to bury the quest for pure profit, ensured that trade went further than ideological warfare.

Taking place in Rome a month before 125 nations send ministers to Singapore to review a 1994 global trade pact, the summit seemed to many a rehearsal for future trade rows.

The World Food Summit's plan of action to halve hunger within 20 years commits nations to carrying out the Uruguay Round trade pact aimed at pulling down protectionism.

The Dec. 8-13 meeting in Singapore of the World Trade Organisation, the Geneva-based guardian of the accord, will in part set the pace for new trade talks due to begin in 1999.

If the Rome summit is anything to go by, the world's major trading states are already jockeying for advantage.

India and other developing nations lined up to slam the

last accord for unleashing market forces too fast. France's Vasseur said he would try to shield agriculture from new subsidy cuts, while Australia rounded on European farmers who are paid not to produce and said the old reforms had merely been too weak.

Caribbean Island states bemoaned the loss of preferential markets for their banana exports, an economic lifeline.

Negotiations for the Uruguay Round, which took seven years and included the first multilateral effort to liberalise food, were nearly derailed by French opposition to cuts in subsidies.

While nations fought over ideals in the main arena, the sidelines offered glimpses of trade clashes of the future. In modern disputes, trade is increasingly muddled with science.

Protesters hit the headlines by stripping naked in front of U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman over genetically modified soybeans that some Europeans want banned. Washington says the beans are safe and has warned that health controls are increasingly being used as a trade barrier.

REUTERS • REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.4987	0.5982	1.2640	111.12	1.3413	1511.51	1.6833	5.0740
DE Mark	0.6672	-	0.3987	0.8447	74.19	0.8946	1007.06	1.1212	3.3794
GB Sterling	1.6718	2.5080	-	2.1128	185.77	2.2424	2527.72	2.6130	8.4807
CH Franc	0.7911	118.44	0.4724	-	67.85	1.0598	1191.67	132.76	3.9963
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3467	0.5373	1.1367	-	1.2056	13.55	151.07	4.5549
CA Dollar	0.7455	1.1173	0.4458	0.9425	1.21	-	1124.69	1.2537	3.7788
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9928	0.3961	0.8837	1358.14	0.8888	-	11.14	3.3578
NL Guilder	0.5941	89.15	0.3555	75.19	66.11	0.7977	896.89	-	3.0136
FR Franc	0.1971	0.2956	0.1179	24.9249	21.92	0.2646	33.16	33.1600	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.30	23.50
W. Texas	23.90	24.10
Bony	23.30	23.50
Dubai	21.10	21.85
UL Gas	217.00	218.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.3999	0.15953	0.33794	29.8789
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40855	0.16296	0.34521	30.315
KW Dinar	3.3501	5.0226	2.00401	4.24448	372.856
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.37772	1.59655	3.36134	295.159
CY Pound	2.1828	3.273	1.3057	2.7626	242.927

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (m's)	379	379.5
Silver (oz's)	4.9	4.92
Platinum (oz's)	384.5	385.5
AL (3 Months)	1433	1436
CU (3 Months)	2136	2141
Zinc (3 Months)	1056	1058
Lead (3 Months)	718	718
NI (3 Months)	6680	6680

Currency Deposit Rates (Bids)					
Period	1	3	6	9	1
C'ncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.21	5.37	5.39	5.37	5.56
GBP	5.88	6.37	6.56	6.62	6.88
JPY	0.34	0.35	0.41	0.41	0.56
DEM	3.00	3.10	3.10	3.00	3.06
FRF	3.32	3.34	3.41	3.45	3.50
CHF	1.65	1.68	1.61	1.93	2.00
ITL	7.45	7.21	6.89	6.70	6.62

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High
New York	DOW JONES	6334.99	-13.04	-0.21	6358.09
New York	S&P 500	734.91	-2.71	-0.37	738.91
London	FT-SE 100	3962.1	3.9	0.1	3968.4
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20796.37	-133.38	-0.64	20940.2
Paris	CAC 40	2229.68	-10.85	-0.48	2235.38
Frankfurt	DAX	2763.84	-31.96	-1.14	2793.27

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	121.17	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1365	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	307	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	140	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	22.23	Spot
Tea (c/lbs)	118	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	2.21	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	470	Spot

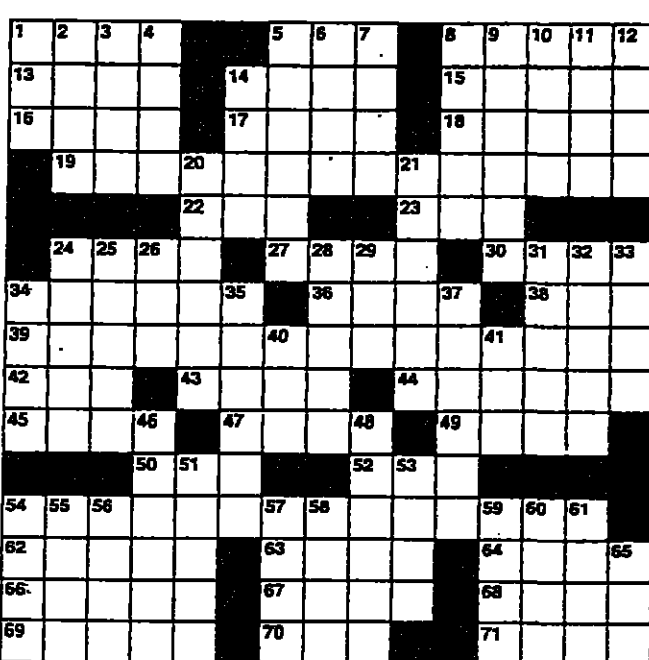
JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1763	1.1842
DE Mark	0.4684	0.4717
CH Franc	0.5541	0.5589
FR Franc	0.1389	0.1396
JP Yen	0.6385	0.6397
NL Guilder	0.4185	0.4206
IT Lira	0.4662	0.4685

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword by Frances Burton

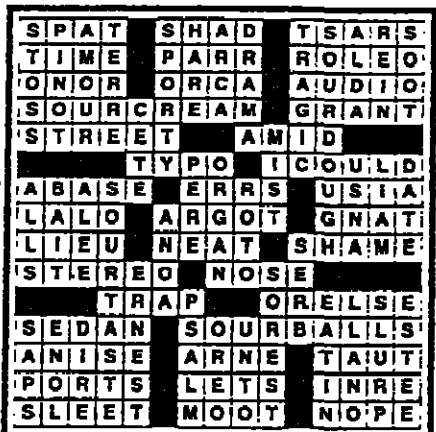
ACROSS

- Young animal
- Rather
- Actor John
- Seed cover
- Singer Guthrie
- Harlan or Lucy
- Notre
- Staves
- Grasping device
- Life, in a song
- Money earned: abbr.
- Stooge name
- Take five
- Ticket leftover
- Have courage
- Pick out
- Metal sources
- Hesitate in speech
- Lovely complexion or fruit dish
- Time zone letters
- Angered
- Instrumental composition
- Colors
- Orient
- Nothing: Sp.
- In addition
- Beer kin
- Favorite
- Osmond sister
- Actor Alan
- Rectangular
- African antelope
- Search for
- Mold-ripened cheese
- Post Alfred
- Selleck or Brokaw
- Surfing bristle



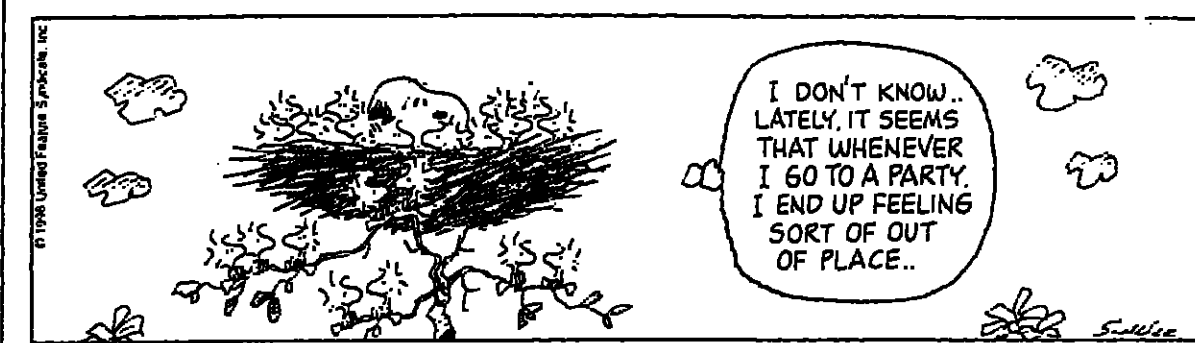
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- Snack
- Houston player
- Put away
- Singer Tennille
- "Picnic" author
- Loch
- English river
- Kind of nut
- Encloses
- snuggly
- Thin
- Make jubilant
- Champagne word
- Amphibians
- Vase
- Leading
- Lariat: var.
- Actress Samms
- Raced
- Shipworm
- Biscuitlike pastries
- Aegean, e.g.
- Genetic code letters
- Briny



- In single file
- Things lacking
- Unauthorised disclosure
- So be it
- Ako, CA
- Beseech
- Swift
- Butter
- substitute
- Recedes
- Yesteryear
- Egress
- Voice vote

Peanuts



Andy Capp

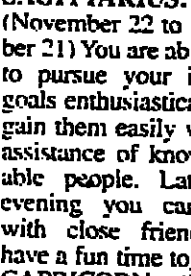


Mutt'n'Jeff

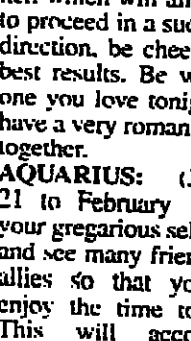


THE BETTER HALF.

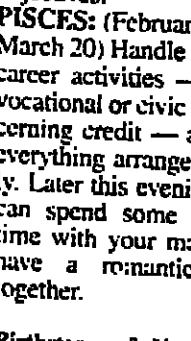
BUSBERGEN



JUMBLE



INSAB



Answer: A

Jumble: APPLY TOXIN

Why the painter is TO PLAY IT 'SAFE'

Companies rush to Internet — survey

LONDON (R) — Consumer-related companies are rushing to the Internet and using the world's fastest-growing medium to communicate with the public about a bewildering range of subjects, a Reuters survey revealed Monday.

The survey showed 83 per cent of top advertisers in Britain, comprising multinationals in the United States, western Europe and Japan, and local British companies, had created "home pages" on the Internet's worldwide web.

Having a home page or "website" allows companies to communicate with anyone in the world who has a computer, modem, phone line and Internet connection.

The survey showed people on the Internet could use company websites to buy books, get insurance quotes, track soccer results, check flight schedules, learn how to fit a bathroom, get advice on choosing a dog and a vast number of other day-to-day activities.

While companies like Britain's Tesco and J.Sainsbury allow Internet users to order wine, chocolate and flowers from their websites other companies use websites for softer marketing.

Procter Gamble, the

world's biggest advertiser, has about 10 websites, but singles out its "parenttime" site as a valuable connection to consumers.

The website — located at <http://www.Parenttime.com> and a joint venture with Time Warner — provides information for busy parents about child development.

"The growth of the Internet is exponential. It's where consumers are going for information and entertainment. We want to be where our consumers are," Elizabeth Moore, spokeswoman for Procter Gamble, told Reuters.

Britain's Bass Brewers said they created a website at <http://www.Fa-calling.com> to show the public they love soccer. The site has information about soccer clubs, results and players, and offers soccer club shirts and other merchandise.

Companies surveyed stressed that the Internet was in its infancy and the only company surveyed that said it "made money" from its website was BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster.

Most were also spending only a small portion of their advertising expenditure on

websites.

Jeremy Silver, vice president for interactive media at EMI International, a part of EMI Group PLC music publisher, said Internet savvy enabled companies to pursue global marketing in a simple and relatively inexpensive way.

"Even though international companies talk about international marketing, there are very few that actually do international marketing. That's a structural problem and it will inhibit the growth of those companies," he said.

Just under half of the companies who responded said they used their website to sell products or services. They said Internet users could use a variety of payment methods, including on-line payment by credit card, and orders placed by fax, phone or e-mail.

Just under half the respondents said their companies advertised on or sponsored other websites.

The survey, called "advertising and marketing on the Internet," covered the top 100 advertisers in Britain, as listed by Register Media research group.

Asian carriers flying into stormy financial weather

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asian airlines are flying into stormy financial weather, with profits being buffeted by rising fuel prices and overcapacity amid a slowdown in key economies, industry executives and analysts say.

Leading regional carriers Singapore Airlines Ltd. (SIA) and Japan Air Lines Co. Ltd. (JAL) have announced poor interim results, blaming fuel costs and other factors for their lacklustre showing.

"If it affects Singapore Airlines the way it does, you can imagine how it affects others. It has one of the most fuel-efficient fleets," said an aviation analyst with a global investment house.

The turbulence has hit regional carriers in the midst of costly fleet modernisation programmes.

Apart from multibillion-dollar financing requirements, fleet upgrading has boosted capacity during an economic slowdown, resulting in a soft cargo market, although passenger traffic growth remains strong.

SIA announced a 7.2 per cent hike in group

after-tax profit to \$398 million in the six months to September — propped up by a hefty surplus from sales of aircraft and spares which neutralised an 11.4 per cent plunge in operating profit.

Despite healthy traffic growth, SIA profits for the year ending March 1997 are forecast by analysts to be just slightly higher than last year's. The strong local dollar, high fuel prices and a soft cargo market were blamed by company officials.

SIA chief executive Cheong Cheong Kong said that "while there may be some respite on the currency front, the direction of fuel prices in the second half is uncertain, as is the recovery of the cargo market."

Cathay Pacific also felt the impact of high fuel costs and overcapacity in the six months to June, but net profit was boosted to \$213 million, up 67.5 per cent, by exceptional profit from the sale of part of its shareholding in associate company Dragonair Ltd. Chinese-controlled Dragonair itself this month announced it was postponing its listing for at

least a year due to slow earnings growth, forecast to stay in single-digit territory this year.

JAL, Japan's biggest airline, reported a 60.7 per cent plunge in parent pre-tax profit to \$47 million in the six months to September due to sharply higher fuel prices.

Competitor All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd. (ANA) fared better, posting a 32.9 per cent increase in parent pre-tax profit with strong revenues from international flights.

JAL managing director Jiro Sagara said his company was not able to overcome "unstoppable" yield declines and the significant rise in fuel costs, which offset the benefits stemming from the firm's international traffic demand.

Prices of jet fuel were hovering around \$30 a barrel in the Singapore market last week, from about \$23.50 a year ago, and world demand is rising going into winter.

"Oil prices are going to stay strong right until the end of the decade," said Ng Weng Hoon, editor of the monthly industry journal Singapore Oil Report. "The days of cheap prices are gone."

Malaysia Airlines System, which is to report its interim results this month, enjoys relief from escalating fuel costs through its supply contract with Petroleum Nasional.

But analysts say its difficulties could stem more from heavy expenditure on fleet modernisation, including the possibility of being a launch customer of the new generation of "Super Jumbo" Boeing jets.

According to the Orient Airlines Association (OAA), fuel accounts for an average of 13 per cent of its 16 members' airline costs.

Growth in freight capacity outstripped demand among member-carriers in June and July. OAA figures showed, but growth in passenger revenues managed to stay ahead of growth in available seats.

The members' combined operating profit totalled \$2.09 billion for fiscal 1994-95, up 61 per cent from the year before.

Profit growth is expected to be significantly weaker in the 1995-96 year, OAA sources said.

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Petroleum refinery plans building storage station south of Amman

** THE JORDAN Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) plans to build a new station to store and load various petroleum products in south Amman, JPRC Director-General Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi has revealed. He said petroleum products will be pumped from the refinery in Zarqa to new tanks in south Amman from where fuel will be loaded by tankers to various gas distribution stations in eastern and southern parts of the capital as well as the governorates for Madaba, Karak, Tafilah, Maan and Aqaba.

Mr. Zu'bi explained that the aim of this project is to ease the pressure of fuel tankers at the site of the refinery and to provide an alternative point to load petroleum products. "This project will surely result in savings as pipelines will substitute the current long distance method of transporting fuel by tankers," he indicated.

The director-general also revealed that the refinery is currently implementing a project to produce unleaded petrol as an alternative gasoline for vehicles. The project, which will cost about \$1 million and is being partially financed by the World Bank, will cover the Kingdom's need of unleaded petrol, Mr. Zu'bi said.

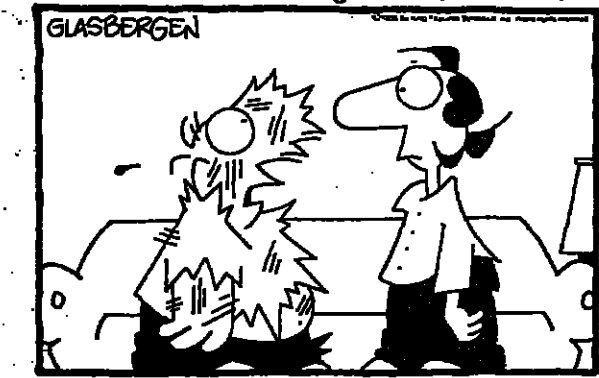
Although raising the capacity of the "strategic storage" or the "operating storage capacity" was described by Mr. Zu'bi as the most important project currently under implementation, he mentioned the building of a new crude oil pipeline as another important project that will be implemented in the future.

He said that the new pipeline will either be from the Tapline, if an agreement was reached to supply the refinery with Saudi oil, or from Iraq to Jordan through a 20-inch diameter pipeline or by extending a 20-inch pipeline from Aqaba to the site of the refinery.

Mr. Zu'bi said a study conducted by the JPRC has concluded that it is not feasible to build a new refinery at Aqaba because such a project carries high investment cost, exceeding \$2 billion, that would yield little return. Noting that such a return proves that the non-feasibility of the project, Mr. Zu'bi indicated that a refinery at Aqaba would be far from the consumption centres and that, such a situation, would entail heavy transportation traffic and higher costs or laying pipelines to bring petroleum products to the consumers.

He emphasised that the best that could be done to meet the Kingdom's need of petroleum products in the future would be to make new expansion at the Zarqa refinery. He stressed that the expansion option would be less costly as it will not require building new infrastructure (Al Ra'i).

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I'll learn to live with litter box odor. Diapering the cat didn't work out."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INSAB

ROSTN

INTIEF

GRAHAN

Answers: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: APPLY TOXIN RAREFY MEASLY

Answer: Why the banker used the vault — TO PLAY IT "SAFE"

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 18/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.4	1.43	2	120	29400	245.00	245.00	-	
1.250	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	70.3	0.00	15	10700	11289	1.04	1.07	.03	
8.250	4.250	THE JORDANIAN BANK	12.7	2.91	3	770	7457	4.85	4.75	.10	
1.200	.880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.69	28	86125	7658	.89	.91	.02	
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	22	6813	23471	3.62	3.62	.00	
1.590	1.000	PHILADELPHIA INV. BK.	9	0.00	9	16000	19586	1.19	1.24	.05	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 187.39 CHNG: -0.09 81 120279 166003											
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.69	23	15500	24351	1.59	1.56	.03	
6.050	4.420	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	16.9	3.02	1	150	638	4.42	4.25	.17	
1.960	1.080	KHAY. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	7	2100	2310	1.10	1.10	.00	
1.050	.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	15.8	4.19	1	600	534	.92	.89	.03	
3.660	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.6	5.81	6	3750	12870	3.42	3.44	.02	
1.270	.960	ZAKKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	850	667	1.02	1.02	.00	
1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	1	1000	460	.89	.86	.03	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 107.41 CHNG: -1.27 41 23950 42429											
26.620	18.950	JOR. TOBACCO & CIG.	16.5	3.66	1	30	614	19.50	20.48	.98	
3.720	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.5	3.10	12	6785	21840	3.25	3.23	.02	
3.580	2.110	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	12.7	0.00	1	250	750	3.00	3.00	.00	
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.79	2	66	900	9.07	9.10	.03	
1.590	1.150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	51.5	0.00	1	200	232	1.22	1.16	.06	
4.870	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	17.0	6.47	36	7450	23981	3.13	3.09	.04	
2.600	2.050	JORDAN DATA	13.2	6.98	2	107	230	2.15	2.15	.00	
3.310	2.500	GENERAL MINING	6.4	12.00	2	350	875	2.55	2.50	.05	
8.000	4.250	DAR ALAMAR DV. IND.	11.9	4.60	9	1980	8513	4.40	4.35	.05	
1.950	.950	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	9.25	9	1900	2147	1.15	1.12	.03	
1.060	.480	ARAB PETRO. CHEM. TRD.	7.6	10.51	8	3500	1925	.55	.55	.00	
1.090	.550	NATIONAL INDUS.	8.1	10.91	8	3500	1925	.55	.55	.00	
1.840	.930	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	22.3	0.00	7	1600	1518	.94	.95	.01	
1.910	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	22.3	0.00	4	900	1067	1.17	1.19	.02	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.30 CHNG: -0.08 169 70650 107131											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 146.81 CHNG: -0.16 291 214879 315563											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 18/11/1996											
.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.1	0.00	8	11350	6132	.57	.55	.02	
.800	.530	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.9	0.00	5	2150	1135	.53	.52	.01	
.950	.440	KHAY. CONGR. CENTERS	8	0.00	5	10600	5073	.46	.48	.02	
.920	.700	UNION INV. 501	67.0	0.00	8	40500	6100	.70	.70	.00	
1.110	.410	ARAB PET. INVEST.	21.9	0.00	21	35400	11189	.41	.41	.00	
.950	.690	AL-DANIELYAN 751	15.6	0.00	6	10089	4439	.69	.69	.00	
.640	.340	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	2	2000	700	.35	.35	.00	
1.150	.650	UNIV. HEALTH	11.9	0.00	1	100	189	.63	.63	.00	
1.760	1.320	UNIV. HEALTH	9	0.00	6	1350	1770	1.31	1.31	.00	
.700	.450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	1	2000	900	.46	.45	.01	
1.000	.520	KHAY. TEXTILE	9	0.00	3	1250	705	.56	.57	.01	
1.000	.450	ARAB PET. INVE. NAMICO	9	0.00	33	52500	2850	.45	.43	.02	
1.080	.750	JORDAN STEEL	8	0.00	4	5500	1125	.75	.75	.00	
.780	.430	ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	1	500	240	.48	.48	.00	
1.310	1.070	UNION TOBACCO 751	9	0.00	5	3500	5863	1.07	1.04	.03	
.840	.580	RAEI PHARM. 651	8	0.00	3	1450	334	.58	.58	.00	
.830	.400	INDUS. ENG.	24.6	0.00	6	8750	3500	.40	.40	.00	
.880	.590	KHAY. POTTRY	9	0.00	2	5500	1345	.60	.60	.00	
1.500	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.6	0.00	22	32750	23995	.63	.65	.02	
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 142 CHNG: 226689 101002											
+ New 12 months low + Listed during the past 12 months + P/E ratio is 100 or more + Negative P/E + Earnings less zero or N/A for the most recent year											

Qatar-Enron joint gas venture being finalised

DOHA (R) — Qatar and U.S. Enron Corp are close to concluding a \$4 billion joint venture agreement for a liquefied natural gas project in the Arab Gulf state, a senior Qatari official has said.

"Everything is moving smoothly and we are readying the final joint venture document for signature within the next weeks," Nasser Jaidah, director of exploration and new ventures at the Qatari ministry of energy and industry, said.

"It will be a 65-35 per cent joint venture," with the state's Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) holding the majority stake, Mr. Jaidah said.

A previous letter of intent signed by the QGPC and Enron in January 1995 had stipulated a 60-40 split. But the final draft of the agreement has changed the ratio and the U.S. company has reportedly concurred with it.

Mr. Jaidah told Reuters: "The project will go ahead and we are moving seriously in that direction."

"We don't care whether Israel buys (Qatari gas) or not," he said in reference to a reported decision by Israel to annul a right of exclusivity given to Enron to negotiate with Qatar for gas supplies for Israel.

Enron and Israel had

signed a memorandum of understanding in October 1995 at an economic conference in Amman granting Enron 180 days to finalise an agreement with Qatar for the supply of at least two million tonnes a year of LNG from 2001.

The agreement, signed by the former Israeli energy minister Gonen Segev and Enron Development Corp chief executive Rebecca Mark, gave Enron exclusivity in negotiations with Qatar during the 180-day period.

But an infrastructure ministry spokesman in Israel last month said that Israel had decided not to renew the agreement as no deal was reached with Qatar during the stipulated period.

However, he stressed, this did not mean that Enron could not pursue negotiations with Israel towards reaching a fresh deal.

Mr. Jaidah said: "For us, India seems to be emerging as a more promising and bigger market."

Enron has signed a memorandum of understanding with an Indian semi-government company — Gujarat Gas Corp — to sell two million tonnes of Qatari gas from 2001 and has said it is talking with state-owned Oil India Ltd and the leading private Essar Group for further sales.

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Graf injury hands Novotna title

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Steffi Graf broke down with a back injury at the end of the first set to hand Jana Novotna victory in the final of the \$450,000 Advanta Championships on Sunday.

Moments after the No. 3 seed Novotna won the set 6-4, Graf notified chair umpire Donna Butler she would be unable to continue. The German's default gave Novotna her third consecutive tournament triumph.

The victory was only Novotna's fourth in 29 matches against Graf, and her first since defeating her at the 1992 French Open.

Graf had won the last 14 meetings between the two players.

"You have to play her so many times before you can beat her, before you finally have a chance," said

Novotna, whose other recent tournament wins came in Zurich and Chicago.

"She is the No. 1 player in the world, and she has the most difficult game. Basically, nobody else plays like her," added the Czech.

Graf, the No. 1 seed and defending champion, was unable to finish her second consecutive tournament. She retired from a match in Leipzig against Anke Huber last month with a sore left knee, and originally had withdrawn from the Advanta tournament before reconsidering last Sunday.

Graf complained of soreness in her lower back on Saturday night after a semi-final victory over Marianne Werdelwintmeyer.

"I tried a lot of treatment last night — chiropractor, massage — but it wasn't

enough," Graf said Sunday. "It didn't make sense (to continue) because I wasn't able to move or turn."

Graf, whose father Peter was released from jail in Mannheim, Germany on Friday after being held for 15 months on tax evasion charges, said she would still try to play in next week's year-ending chase championships in New York. Graf is the No. 1 seed and defending champion.

"Obviously, I'm going to wait as long as possible and try everything," she said.

Sunday's match started out even, as neither player faced a break point in the first six games. Novotna broke through in the seventh game, though, when she ended a long rally with a forehand volley winner on her third break point.

Novotna closed her next

service game with an ace, and won the set on her first opportunity when she volleyed Graf's weak backhand return for a winner at 5-4, 40-15.

"When Steffi came out and hit an ace in the first game and then served and volleyed, I said, 'Oh, it looks like I'm going to see something different from her today,'" Novotna said. "But I was able to keep up with her."

Novotna, who earned \$79,000 for the victory, will move up one spot to No. 3 in the WTA tour world rankings this week, making her the third Czech-born player to reach that level. The others were Hana Mandlikova, who now serves as Novotna's coach, and Martina Navratilova.

Samaranch calls for more women competitors

CANCUN, Mexico (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch called on Sunday for more women competitors in the Olympic Games.

Speaking at the end of a four-day IOC executive meeting, Samaranch said women had comprised 37 percent of the athletes at this year's Atlanta Games.

"Maybe we will arrive at 40 percent in Sydney," he said. "The important thing is to have more women." Samaranch cited women's weightlifting as a sport which could be introduced to the games.

During the meeting, Atlanta organisers said the final budget surplus would probably be less than \$10 million.

IOC medical officials said the drug Bromantan, used both as a stimulant and a masking agent, would be banned from February next year.

Five Russians tested positive in Atlanta for the drug which was developed by the Soviet military for use by cosmonauts.

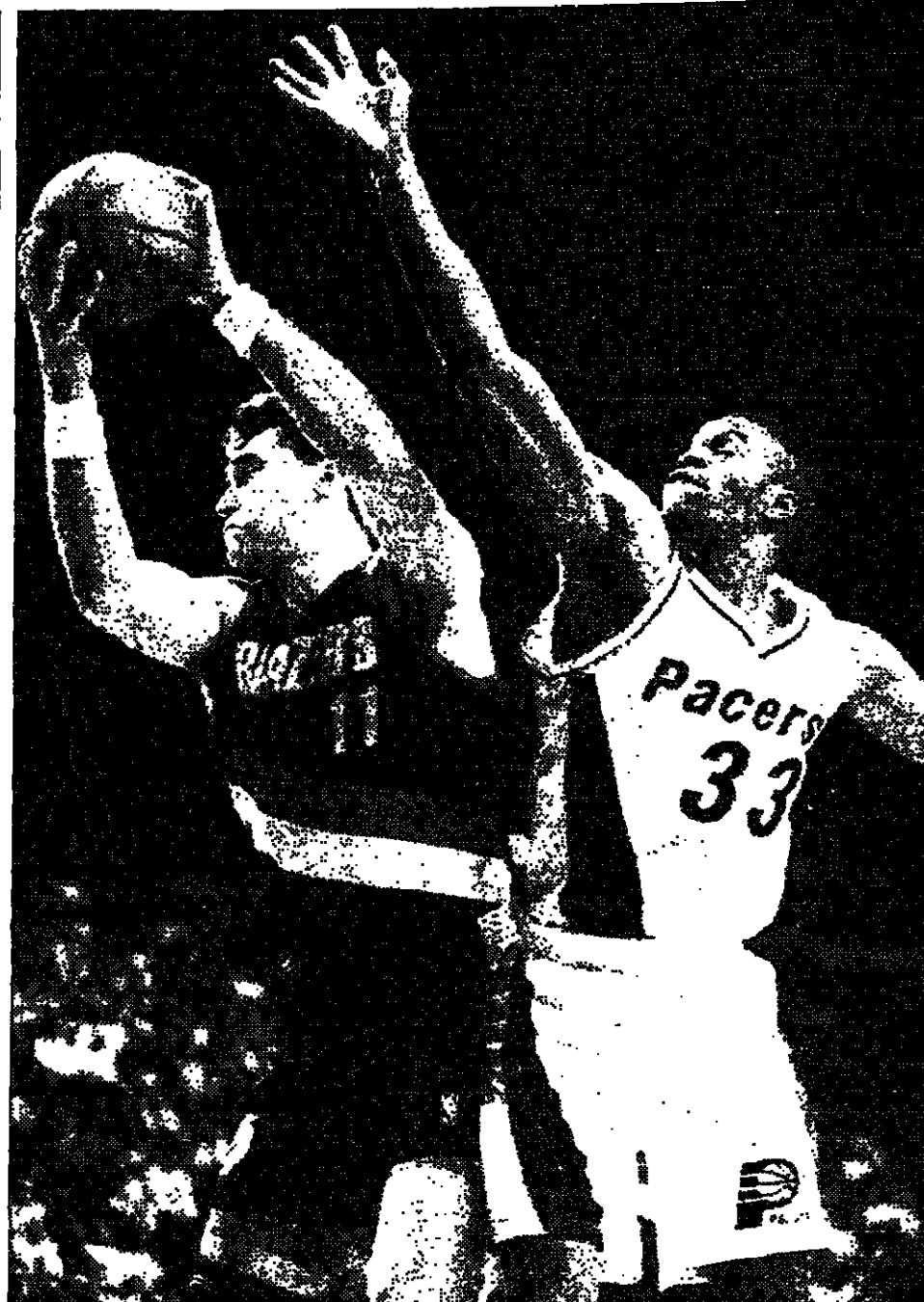
IOC officials also confirmed cities hosting future Olympics would be bound by contract to avoid the type of commercialisation which marred the Atlanta Games.

Initial television figures showed worldwide viewership for the Atlanta Games was up 15 to 20 percent from 19-20 billion viewers for the 1992 games.

The IOC said it expected to announce the results of its investigation into allegations of corruption among boxing judges at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The next IOC executive meeting is scheduled for March next year in Lausanne.

Officials will announce a short list of Candidates for the 2004 summer Games from the present 11 candidates.



Portland Trailblazers center Arvydas Sabonis of Lithuania pulls a rebound away from the grasp of Indiana Pacers forward Antonio Davis at Market Square Arena (Reuters photo)

Lakers drop Phoenix Suns to 0-9

PHOENIX (R) — The Los Angeles Lakers got 16 points and 13 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal and dropped the Suns to 0-9 for the season with a 102-88 defeat Sunday.

The Suns have failed to reach 100 points this season. In his first game as coach after a 14-year career as a player, Danny Ainge watched his team squander an early eight-point lead by going scoreless for more than five minutes.

Phoenix also allowed Lakers 18-year-old Rookie Kobe Bryant to score 16 points in 14 minutes off the bench.

In Portland, Arvydas Sabonis and Rasheed Wallace fuelled a third-quarter rally and Clifford Robinson made four free throws in the final 30 seconds to give the Portland Trail Blazers an 88-83 victory over the struggling Indiana Pacers.

Sabonis scored 10 points and Wallace nine in the third quarter, when the Trail

Blazers turned a seven-point deficit into a five-point lead.

Rookie Erick Dampier scored 13 points and Davis added 10 and 13 rebounds for the Blazers, who also began 2-6 two years ago.

In San Antonio, B.J. Armstrong scored 24 points and Latrell Sprewell added 10 of his 20 in an 18-3 third-quarter run as the Golden State Warriors defeated the slumping San Antonio Spurs, 102-92.

"This is our second game in two nights and we were sluggish," Warriors coach Rick Adelman said. "However we fought through it to give us a chance to win the game."

In Los Angeles, Rodney Rogers scored 20 points to lead a balanced attack and the Los Angeles Clippers defeated a 15-4 second-half run to defeat the shorthanded Milwaukee Bucks, 102-94.

Milwaukee's losing streak extended to three games, all on the road.

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 10 of his 21 points in the third quarter as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Vancouver Grizzlies, 91-81, for their seventh straight victory.

Sam Perkins scored seven of his 15 points in the opening quarter and Hersey Hawkins had 14 for Seattle, which held Vancouver scoreless for the first 4:05 of the second period.

Rookie Roy Rogers scored 18 points for the Grizzlies, who have lost nine of their first 10 games.

RESULTS

Portland	88	Indiana	83
Golden State	102	San Antonio	92
LA Clippers	102	Milwaukee	94
LA Lakers	102	Phoenix	88
Seattle	91	Vancouver	81

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Real Madrid go top, Juventus draw with Milan

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid hit the top in Spain Sunday with a fine 3-1 win in Sevilla but Juventus and AC Milan could only draw 0-0 in the big Serie A clash.

Elsewhere in Europe, English leaders Newcastle were held 1-1 at home by West Ham but Manchester United got back to winning ways with a 1-0 victory over Arsenal. French leaders PSG suffered a 5-3 defeat in Bordeaux. In Germany, VfB Stuttgart have taken over at the top from Bayern Munich. Spartak Moscow are the new Russian champions.

Italy

Juventus drew 0-0 with AC Milan, a disappointing result for both sides. Juventus stay level third in the table with Bologna on 16 points, a point adrift of Vicenza and two behind pacesetters Inter, held at home to Fiorentina on Saturday.

Inter Milan needed an 83rd minute equaliser from English international Paul Ince to force a 2-2 draw with Fiorentina, who had led twice in the match.

England

Newcastle stretched their lead at the top from two to three points despite being held to a 1-1 draw by West Ham, only denied all three points by Peter Beardsley's late equaliser, his 200th league goal. Newcastle's England striker Les Ferdinand suffered a facial injury which could

keep him out for six weeks.

Arsenal, who were second, lost 1-0 at Manchester United whose run of three successive league defeats ended courtesy of a Nigel Winterburn own goal. Liverpool went second with a 2-0 win at Leeds, but for once were eclipsed by merseyside rivals Everton who beat Southampton 7-1.

Brazil's Emerson was released with his Middlesbrough team mates but the north-east club lost 2-1 at Derby to stay five from the bottom and without a win in their last seven league games.

Germany

A week before the mid-winter break starts, VfB Stuttgart regained the initiative in the title race when they dislodged Bayern Munich from the top of the table with a 3-1 home victory over VfL Bochum. Stuttgart lead Bayern — who slipped to third after a goalless draw at struggling Freiburg — by a point.

Stuttgart moved level on points with second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, 2-0 winners at Hamburg. Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund lost ground after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Karlsruhe which kept them in fourth place, three points behind the leaders.

Spain

Real Madrid climbed to the top of the first division

on Sunday after winning 3-1 at Sevilla. With 29 goals from 13 games real go one point clear of Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' home game with Valladolid Monday.

Deportivo Coruna wasted a golden opportunity to overtake Barcelona by drawing 0-0 at neighbours Compostela on Saturday. Deportivo's second consecutive goalless draw left John Toshack's side with 27 points from 13 games, one point behind Barcelona.

Champions Atletico Madrid had striker Kiko sent off late in their 2-1 win over Espanyol and are seventh.

France

Jean-Pierre Papin scored twice, once from the penalty spot, as Bordeaux beat Paris St-Germain 5-3 to cut PSG's lead at the top to three points.

Second-placed Monaco won 1-0 at lowly Caen thanks to a goal from teenager Thierry Henry two minutes from time but champions Auxerre dropped to fifth after a 1-0 defeat at Rennes. Bordeaux's win took them into third place, ahead of Bastia — 2-1 winners at home to Metz — on goal difference. Both are five points behind Monaco.

Russia

Spartak Moscow won the title with a dramatic 2-1 playoff victory over defending champions Alania Vladikavkaz in

neutral St. Petersburg.

Goals from Ilya Tsybalar and Russia's player of the year Andrei Tikhonov eight minutes from time gave Spartak the crown at the end of the season which runs from spring to autumn.

Anatoly Kanishchev's 85th minute reply for Alania kept the excitement bubbling in the first championship playoff for 26 years but Spartak held on to become champions for the fourth time in five years.

Scotland

With Rangers having beaten Celtic 1-0 at Parkhead in their top-of-the-table clash on Thursday, third-placed Aberdeen squandered a chance to close the gap on Celtic when they were held 3-3 at home by lowly Dundee United.

Hearts lost the chance to overtake Aberdeen when they drew 0-0 with arch-rivals Hibs in a scappy Edinburgh Derby.

Netherlands

Champions Ajax Amsterdam and leaders PSV Eindhoven suffered surprising defeats on Sunday. Ajax lost 2-0 at NAC Breda and PSV were beaten 1-0 by lowly Willem II Tilburg, but with second place Feyenoord losing on Friday the situation stayed unchanged at the top with PSV one point clear on 36.

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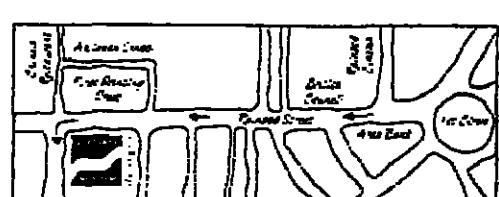
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Philadelphia 2

Tom Cruise ... in

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA

Leslie Nelson ... in

SPY HARD

(In Dolby stereo)

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
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INDEPENDENCE DAY

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CONCORD "2"

BRAVEHEART

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PHILADELPHIA (R) — Terrell Davis, who helped Denver build a 34-8 halftime lead and the Broncos on Sunday, rushed for 154 yards and led the team to a 31-20 victory over the Oakland Raiders in the sixth NFL game for Davis.

Davis, who was the seventh pick in the NFL's best draft class, had 120 yards rushing and a touchdown.

He also had a touchdown and a field goal in the first half, but the Broncos' defense held the Raiders to 10 points in the first half.

The Broncos' defense held the Raiders to 10 points in the first half, but the Broncos' defense held the Raiders to 10 points in the first half.

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Broncos breezy by Patriots, Bills stop Bengals

FOXBORO (R) — Terrell Davis scored three touchdowns to help Denver build a 24-0 halftime lead and the Broncos coasted to a 34-8 victory over the new England Patriots on Sunday.

Davis rushed for 154 yards on 32 carries and leads the NFL with 1,209 rushing yards. It was the sixth 100-yard rushing game for Davis this season.

"It's real hard to cut on that field and I knew my moves had to be a little more subtle today," said Davis. "I just told myself to run hard today and once I got into the secondary, I tried not to go down on the first hit."

The win was the seventh in a row for the Broncos, who own the NFL's best record at 10-1.

In Buffalo, Jim Kelly threw for a touchdown and ran for another and Thurman Thomas rushed for 78 yards as the Buffalo Bills stopped the Cincinnati Bengals, 31-17.

Kelly was 13-of-22 for 199 yards and one interception, which was returned 31 yards for a TD by cornerback Ashley Ambrose in the second quarter.

In Atlanta, Bobby Hebert passed for 229 yards and two touchdowns for the Falcons, who scored all of their points in the first half, but held on for a 17-15 victory over the New Orleans Saints in a battle of NFC West Celardwellers.

Hebert completed 26-of-39 passes, including scoring strikes of eight yards to Eric Metcalfe in the first quarter and five yards to Terance

Mathis in the second period.

In Detroit, Jason Hanson kicked a 43-yard field goal with 4:32 remaining and Barry Sanders rushed for 134 yards as the Detroit Lions snapped a four-game losing streak with a 17-16 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

The Seahawks had a chance to win on the final play, but Todd Peterson's 42-yard field goal try sailed wide right as time expired.

In Indianapolis, Cary Blanchard kicked four field goals, including a 37-yarder with 8:10 to play to provide the go-ahead points as the Indianapolis Colts rallied past the New York Jets, 34-29.

Blanchard, a former Jet, added a 50-yard field goal with 1:24 left to give Indianapolis (6-5) a five-point lead.

The Jets have lost 10 games for the third straight season.

In Kansas City, Kimble Anders scored on a 10-yard run in the second quarter and Mark Collins made two key defensive plays in a scoreless second half to lead the Kansas City Chiefs to a 14-10 victory over the Chicago Bears.

Anders' 10-yard touchdown run with four-and-a-half minutes left in the first half gave Kansas City the lead for good at 10-7.

In Philadelphia, Gus Frerotte found tight end Jamie Asher for two touchdowns passes and Scott Blanton kicked four field goals as the Washington Redskins regained first

place in the NFC East with a 26-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Washington (8-3) moved a game ahead of the Eagles (7-4) for the top spot in the division.

The Redskins got 84 yards on 25 carries from Terry Allen, while Waters ran for 87 on 26 attempts for Philadelphia.

In Pittsburgh, Yancey Thigpen caught his first two touchdowns of the season and the Pittsburgh defense scored once and forced another costly turnover as the Steelers cruised past the Jacksonville Jaguars, 28-3.

The Steelers (8-3) avenged a 24-9 opening-day loss to Jacksonville (4-7) by forcing four turnovers, but the two fumbles they forced on Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell made the difference.

"A game of big plays — we made more of them than they did," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said.

In St. Louis, Anthony Johnson rushed for 121 yards, including a seven-yard scamper with 1:31 left in the third quarter that snapped a tie and boosted the Carolina Panthers to a 20-10 defeat of the St. Louis Rams.

It was Johnson's fourth 100-yard effort of the season. Beuerlein completed 13-of-28 passes for 136 yards with one interception and one touchdown.

One week after scoring 59 points against Atlanta, St. Louis was held to one touchdown and 243 total yards against the Panthers (7-4).

Honduras score 11 but still go out of World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Honduras hammered 11 goals past hapless St. Vincent on Sunday, beating the Caribbean amateurs 11-3, but were still knocked out of the World Cup as rivals Jamaica beat Mexico 1-0 at home.

Jamaica had needed only a point from their game in Kingston to reach the final stage of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament at the Honduras' expense but took all three thanks to an 82nd-minute goal by Ian Godison.

Jamaica finished top of semifinals stage group three, one point ahead of the apathetic Mexicans, who had already guaranteed their place in the six-team final.

St. Vincent, who lost all six group games and conceded 33 goals, also let in 11 goals in a World Cup qualifier against Mexico four years ago.

Honduras, whose only appearance in the World Cup finals was in Spain in 1982, had to make up a difference of 10 goals as well as hope for a Jamaica defeat.

Milton Nunez and Nicolas Suazo both scored hat-tricks for Honduras, who were left to lament their failure to beat Jamaica at home last month. That game ended 0-0.

Mexico did Honduras no favours by selecting a depleted squad which featured seven uncapped players. The stars, such as goalkeeper Jorge Campos and strikers Carlos Hermosillo and Zague, were involved in club matches to the Mexican championship, which carried on regardless of the national team's World Cup commitment.

Costa Rica beat Guatemala 3-0 at home to join the United States at the top of Group 1 which is still in its early stages. Costa Rica and the United States are clear favourites to qualify from the group, which also contains Trinidad.

Canada are already through from Group 2, with El Salvador and Cuba fighting for the second spot. The final CONCACAF round, to be played next year, will decide the region's three representatives at the 1998 World Cup.

1st Division Basketball Championship starts today Orthodoxi, Ahli, Jazireh battle for title in playoffs as JBF holds women's all-star tourney

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The country's second most-popular sport — basketball — comes back to life Tuesday with the start of the First Division Basketball Championship.

While the traditional, decade-long Ahli-Orthodoxi rivalry will never cease to have its special flavour for fans of both teams, the emergence of a third team — Al Jazireh — as a serious contender in the past season has taken the game to new heights and even changed the way officials organise the country's most-prestigious basketball event.

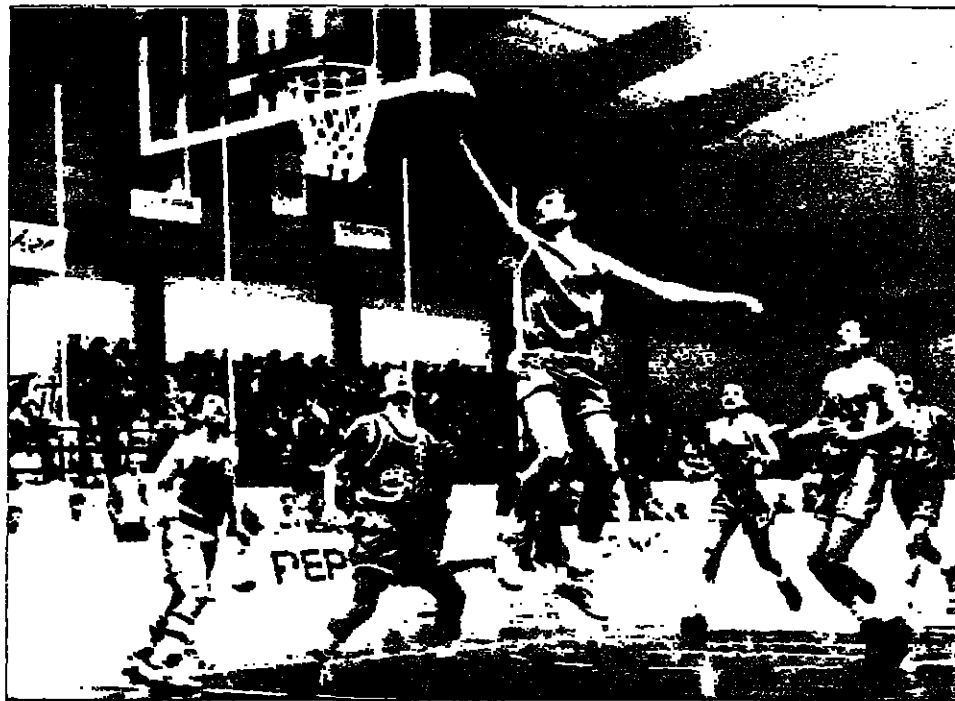
For the first time in the history of the championship, the top four teams in the six-team tourney will fight it out for the title in a two-round playoff. Many observers have been suggesting this system for years hoping that it will create a tougher competition and giving fans a chance for more interesting matches.

The change was brought about by the surprising championship last year when Al Jazireh's first round win over Al Ahli cost the latter their three-year reign and handed Al Orthodoxi the crown they had last won in 1991.

The existence of a third team beside the top two has made the first division an interesting championship to follow. After the first round concludes, the top four will qualify for the playoffs. Al Jalil and Al Yarmouk have the chance to be the fourth qualifier. The last two teams will play the top two in the second division to determine if they keep their place in the first division or drop to the second.

All the teams play on the opening day in Irbid and Amman with Al Ahli meeting Al Watani, Al Jalil play Al Jazireh, and Al Orthodoxi meet Al Yarmouk. Being the titleholders, the pressure this year is on Al Orthodoxi who won back the title they had won from 1976-1989 before losing it to Al Ahli in 1990 who won it again in 92, 93 and 94.

Al Orthodoxi seem poised for a repeat having their lineup complete, and led by veteran Hilal Barakat and Muntaser Abulayyeb. The team includes a mixture of both young experienced players



Al Ahli's Naser Bushnaq goes for a lay-up as teammates Walid Badran and Samir Murqus look on during the 1993 final (File photo)

alongside newcomers who are mostly under 20 led by Fadi Saqqa.

"We are happy to see the emergence of stronger teams making the championship more competitive. This is a very positive aspect," senior Orthodoxi basketball official Fadi Zureiqat Monday told the Jordan Times.

He said that his team had been training since April and had a successful training camp in Lebanon where they met top Lebanese and Egyptian teams losing two matches and winning one.

Zureiqat added that his club was happy that the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) had decided to hold the championship in a play-off form as that would allow for more matches — something local teams greatly lack.

"It is precisely for that reason that the top three teams have travelled to Syria and Lebanon for their final training camps — and even so, Jordanian teams are no less competitive if we have everything available like teams in neighbouring countries (like sponsorship and less stringent rules regarding player registration and free movement)."

Ahli head coach Ghait Najjar, missing the efforts of the team's top players this season, sounded less optimistic about his chances of regaining the title.

"We will be represented by a young lineup who

might lack the experience but are certainly a good asset for the future," he said.

Najjar, previously an assistant coach, will be leading the team as head coach for the first time hoping to prove that Al Ahli can do well without their well-known stars.

While declining to comment on recent rumours that star centre Naser Bushnaq will rejoin the team after a year's absence during which he joined a Qatari team, Najjar said former captain Samir Murqus would be joining his younger teammates also after missing last season when he announced his retirement and was assistant coach.

Walid Badran is back on the team and will play alongside teammates Ramez Hammoudeh, Mohammad Shamali, Marwan Saeedi and Faisal Nsour.

Al Ahli had a training camp in Syria lately where they won one match beating Al Shurta 69-67 and losing 74-67 to Al Jeish and 76-52 to Syria's top team Al Wihdeh.

The third title contender — Al Jazireh — have a relatively complete lineup led by Yousef Abu Bakr, Saqr Khirfan and Naser Alawneh. However, the team will this year miss the efforts of playmaker Ghait Ennabi — one of the leading figures on the team.

According to head coach Fadi Sabbah, the team's latest training camp in Lebanon was very benefi-

cial where his young lineup met Beirut's top teams losing to Al Hikmah, Al Riyadi and Al Tadamon and beating Al Wardieh by one point.

"We are happy that the form of the top teams is very close which will provide an interesting championship for all," said Sabbah. Like other teams, Al Jazireh are happy to have the playoff system finally implemented allowing players and fans more games and a serious challenge for the title.

The other teams seem unlikely to have any effect on the top standings.

Newcomers Al Yarmouk will be giving it their best to oust undermanned Al Watani and inconsistent Al Jalil a hard time in their fight for a place in the first division.

The first round is set to be completed by Dec. 1 — the day an all-star tournament starts for players of the women's national team who have been regrouped in preparation for the Asian Championship due to be held in Bangkok April 27.

The players have been divided into two teams and will play three matches on Dec. 1, 5, and 12 preceding the men's matches.

While players were regrouped over two weeks ago, the national team has been unable to start practice due to the unavailability of a basketball court — a fact that seriously hinders their training programme for the Asian Championship.

Italian boxer declared brain dead

PISA (R) — Doctors declared middleweight boxer Fabrizio De Chiara brain dead on Sunday after his collapse in the last round of an Italian title fight.

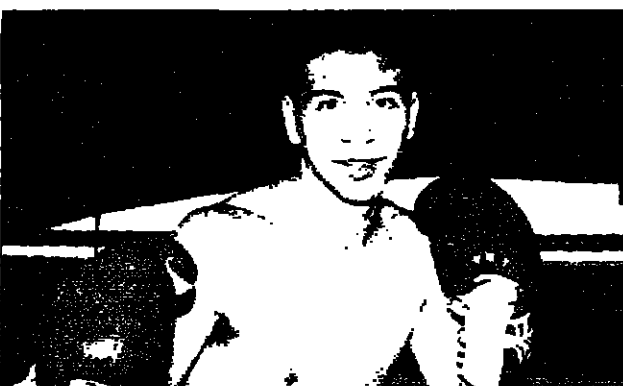
"In the course of the day a third brain scan showed the patient's condition worsened and... We have ascertained that the functioning of his brain has ceased," said a doctor at a hospital in the central Tuscan town of Pisa said in a bulletin.

De Chiara, 25, collapsed at the end of his 12-round contest against Vincenzo Imparato in the western Italian port of Massa on Saturday. He stood up after being stopped with a left and a right and then fell to the canvas.

De Chiara, previously unbeaten in a 12-fight career, was carried out on a stretcher and taken to hospital in nearby Pisa where doctors diagnosed major internal bleeding and operated for four hours. He remained in critical condition.

Doctors said that under Italian law they would have to wait six hours before they could turn off the life-support system keeping De Chiara alive and declare him medically dead.

"Fabrizio always told me that if anything ever happened to him, I should donate his organs," the



Italian middleweight boxer Fabrizio De Chiara, collapsed at the end of his 12-round contest against Vincenzo Imparato in the western Italian port of Massa. After being operated for four hours, doctors declared him clinically dead (Reuters photo)

fighter's mother, Carla, told reporters. "I would rather not do that but I will respect his decision."

Imparato, who had fought De Chiara before many times as an amateur, said: "I could see my opponent was exhausted and gasping for breath, weakened by fatigue. I would rather have lost the fight and the title than undergo these awful hours for a friend. I could not sleep last night. I just kept thinking about De Chiara. I didn't want to win the title like this."

The tragedy looked certain to rekindle the debate over boxing. "We have arrived at the last straw," said parliamentarian Massimo Mauro, a former professional soccer

player. "If it were up to me I would ban boxing." He said he would ask a parliamentary committee to address ways to make the sport safer, if not ban it outright.

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The Central Bank of Jordan Issues Commemorative Coins on the UN 50th Anniversary

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the Central Bank of Jordan wishes to announce the issue of silver and base metal coins. These coins will be sold at the Central Bank as from Sunday 17.11.96. Following are their specifications:-

Denomination	Silver coin	Base metal coin
Alloy	5 Dinars Sterling .925 silver	5 Dinars Cupro - Nickel
Diameter	38.61 mm	38.61 mm
Weight	28.28 gm	28.28 gm
Shape	round	round
Edge	milled	milled
Price	JD 14.00	JD 5.00



- Obverse:
- The portrait of His Majesty King Hussein.
 - The texts (Al-Hussein Bin Talal) and King of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) in Arabic.
 - The text (The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) in English.
- Reverse:
- An engraving of the Black Iris.
 - The emblem of the UN celebrations.
 - The text (Black Iris: Jordan's national flower).
 - (1945-1995) to indicate the 50th anniversary of the UN.
 - The denomination written in English.

The presentation cases of these coins include certificates of authenticity.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AKQ74 CK542 OK9 463

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AQJ1034 CK53 OKJ10 48

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AQJ1034 CK53 OKJ10 48

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AQJ985 CK78 OKJ93 48

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 20 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AAKJ76 OK1094 OK5 44

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 1NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AAKJ76 CK105 OKQ 484

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 1NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

Jordan to seek advanced technology and equipment from U.S. under new status

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will be seeking certain state-of-the-art military technology and equipment from the United States under a new privileged status given to the Kingdom by Washington, but it has not drawn up a list of its requirements, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

The information minister also implied that Jordan would not be seeking any nuclear material from the U.S. although the non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally status given to the Kingdom.

Dr. Muasher, addressing a weekly press briefing, said Jordan welcomed the U.S. move, "which opens the door for Jordan to receive certain state-of-the-art technology and equipment from the U.S."

Jordan can now receive some of the advanced equipment that U.S. military units bring in with them when they come here for joint exercises with Jordanian counterparts, he said. "This was not the case until now," he noted.

U.S. Air Force units which took part in joint exercises with the Royal Jordanian Air Force in mid-1996 had brought in with them advanced radar and control equipment related to F-16 fighter jets. They left behind part of the equipment and technology, but the entire lot could not be given to Jordan because the Kingdom did not enjoy any special status with the U.S.

Under the non-NATO ally status, Jordan is now entitled to "priority consideration" for military aid and equipment. The status, which falls under the Foreign Assistance Act of

1991, took effect on Nov. 12, 1996.

According to a State Department statement, the status "makes Jordan eligible for priority consideration for the transfer of excess defence articles, the use of already appropriated military assistance funds for procurement through commercial leases, the stockpiling of U.S. military material and the purchase of depleted uranium munitions."

Asked specifically about the clause on "depleted uranium ammunition," Dr. Muasher pointed out that such provisions were standard in granting non-NATO ally status.

"But it does not mean that Jordan would be asking for such items," he said. "We have not drawn up a list of equipment or technology that we would seek from the U.S."

The American move also permits Jordanian companies to bid on certain U.S. Department of Defence contracts. A non-NATO ally status will also allow for the positioning of American military equipment in the country.

"The designation of Jordan recognises its continued support for peace, and underscores its strong and growing relationship between Jordan and the United States," the U.S. State Department said.

Officials here have stressed that Jordan and the United States have not discussed the positioning of U.S. weapons in the country.

Other countries that have also been granted non-NATO ally status by the United States are Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Dr. Muasher also said Monday that Jordan would start receiving 16 F-16 fighter planes from the U.S. in December 1997.

Afghan rivals resume fighting

KABUL (R) — Opposing forces on the frontline north of Kabul were engaged in heavy exchanges of artillery and rocket fire on Monday after a lull of three days.

Forces loyal to the Taliban movement are facing fighters of the ousted government and their allies on a front in a valley 20 to 25 kilometres north of Kabul.

Taliban multiple rocket launchers and artillery were pounding a small village to the west of the so-called "New Road" 25 kilometres north of Kabul, apparently in an attempt to destroy a force of opposition fighters surrounded there.

The New Road runs along the eastern side of the valley towards the frontline.

A Taliban commander on the frontline told Reuters that former government forces launched two attacks, one at 11 p.m. (1830 GMT) on Sunday night and another at 10 a.m. (0530 GMT) on Monday morning.

"They attacked at 11 o'clock last night, and then again this morning," said the commander, who declined to give his name. "They were trying to cut the New Road."



An Afghan Taliban fighter fires artillery from a base 30 kilometres north of Kabul towards positions held by fighters loyal to the former government as fighting resumed in Afghanistan after a three-day lull (Reuters photo)

The opposition alliance forces have launched a number of attacks from the west in an attempt to cut the road, so far without success.

"We have taken 12 prisoners and sent them to Kabul," said the Taliban commander. It was not possible to verify his comments.

Witnesses said they saw a number of wounded Taliban being taken to hospital from the frontline. There were no reliable figures for the number of wounded and dead on either side of the battle.

The Taliban commander said no territory had changed hands, but it was not possible to check his comments.

As he spoke, two Taliban helicopter-gunships hovered overhead waiting to go into action.

The front line north of Kabul has seen some heavy engagements over the past month, but neither side has managed to make a strategic breakthrough.

The Taliban control a low range of hills running across the valley that the opposition must take if they are to launch an attack on Kabul itself.

Afghan watchers in Kabul say a stalemate has developed, with neither side able to inflict a significant defeat on the other.

Taliban-controlled radio in Kabul said on Sunday

night that their troops had repulsed an attack by forces of the northern leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum in the remote north-western provinces of Badkhis and Faryab.

Both sides have in the past claimed victories in the northwest, but they have not been independently verified.

The United Nations Refugee Agency says that thousands of people have been displaced by the northern fighting. In a news conference on Sunday afternoon the Taliban acting minister of information appealed to the international community to provide food and shelter for the refugees.

Petra to host 'informal' meeting of refugee working group next week

Gathering seen as chance to 'break the ice'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An "informal" two-day meeting of the multilateral working group on refugees will be held in Petra next week, in the attempt to "break the ice" and reactivate discussions on one of the thorniest issues in the Mideast peace process, officials said.

Members and heads of the delegations scheduled to take part in the Nov. 24-25 meeting said they do not expect concrete results to be achieved. However, they said, the meeting, the first of its kind since the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May, will provide all parties with an opportunity to resume contacts.

Three-member delegations representing Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Egypt and Israel, as well as the U.S. and Russia (the co-sponsors of the peace process) and Canada (which chairs the working group on refugees) will take part in the meeting.

According to government and diplomatic sources, the Palestinian delegation will be headed by Assad Abdul Rahman, a member of the PNA cabinet and head of the Palestinian delegation at the multilateral talks.

Yusef Hadas, former director general of the Israeli foreign ministry and head of Israeli delegation to the working group on refugees in the multilateral track, will lead his country's

delegation.

"The meeting is aimed at monitoring the work of the sub-committees of the working group on refugees and evaluating the progress achieved so far," an Israeli embassy spokesperson told the Jordan Times.

The working group on refugees, set up in Moscow in early 1992 following the launching of an Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid in September 1991, is one of the five working groups in the multilateral phase of the Mideast peace process.

Other working groups deal with water, the environment, regional economic development and arms control.

Negotiators agree that, of the five working groups, the one on refugees is the one which has achieved the least so far.

Next week's meeting at the Movenpick Hotel in Petra represents an attempt to "break the ice," a Palestinian official said, adding that the meeting was meant to be "held discreetly, to avoid press-amplified reproaches and recriminations."

Director General of the Department for Palestinian Affairs of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry Abdul Karim Abul Hajja said: "The refugee problem not only touches the lives of more than four million people who have been deprived of their homes for 50 years. It concerns the whole region and on its solution depends the future of the peace process."

Accusing Israel of "refusing to discuss the political aspects of the problem, relegating them to the final status of negotiations," Dr. Abul Hajja said: "The Palestinians should have their right to return recognised, even if many of them, having built their lives and invested abroad, could choose not to exercise that right."

Complicating an already excruciating problem even further, the definition of "refugees" and "displaced persons" has emerged as one of the most sticking points in the Arab-Israeli talks.

While all the Arab parties agree on considering as "displaced" all Palestinians driven from their homes in 1967 along with their wives and children born afterwards as well as their relatives who were not in the territories at that point in time, Israel refuses to include relatives in the counting of displaced," Dr. Abul Rahman explained.

According to Israel's stand, the children of a Palestinian from Hebron, for example, who were studying in Beirut at the time of the 1967 war, are not entitled to the status of "displaced," as they are not considered as having been directly and personally affected by the war, Dr. Abul Rahman said.

Though both Arabs and Israelis consider as "refugees" those who fled their homes or were driven out in the aftermath of the 1948 war, which resulted

in the displacement of more than 700,000 Palestinians, Mr. Hansch urged Israel to ease its crippling economic closure of Palestinian self-rule areas.

"The path to prosperity for the Palestinians requires open borders," he said.

He said Israel's closure of the areas, meant to prevent suicide bombers from infiltrating the Jewish state, was only a "short-term security measure" and "unfettered economic investment" would help cement peace.

The EU is a main source of financial support for the Palestinian autonomy, pledging more than \$650 million in aid by 1998. The Europeans have also backed the Palestinian goal of statehood — placing them at odds with Israel's new government.

"It is not a secret that we do not always see eye-to-eye," said Knesset speaker Dan Tichon, calling on Mr. Hansch to show a "balanced and responsible approach" on the Middle East.

No one, he said, would benefit if Israel followed the "dead-end street of more illegal settlements."

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Palestinians, Mr. Hansch urged Israel to ease its crippling economic closure of Palestinian self-rule areas.

"The path to prosperity for the Palestinians requires open borders," he said.

He said Israel's closure of the areas, meant to prevent suicide bombers from infiltrating the Jewish state, was only a "short-term security measure" and "unfettered economic investment" would help cement peace.

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Europarlament chief urges Israel to honour agreements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The president of the European Parliament told Israel's legislature on Monday the Jewish state must surmount historic enmities and honour peace deals with the Palestinians.

"I am deeply moved, but also not without a sense of shame that this honour and this trust is conferred on a German," Mr. Klaus Hansch opened his remarks to Israel's Knesset.

Declaring Europe's support for Israel to be "unswerving," Mr. Hansch urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rightist government to implement interim peace accords signed by the previous administration.

"The international community expects that those agreements be honoured... international commitments your state has made are not affected by a change in majorities," Mr. Hansch said.

"It is the living proof that in Europe the enmities of

the past have been overcome, not through forgetting the bitter lessons of past conflict, but through understanding them and learning from them," he told parliament, saying Israelis and Arabs could emulate Europe's example.

Israeli-Palestinian talks on a long-delayed redeployment in Hebron agreed by the former government are stalemated over Mr. Netanyahu's insistence the signed deal be altered.

"The future of Hebron was settled by the Oslo agreements," Mr. Hansch said.

Mr. Hansch said the presence of some 130,000 Jewish settlers amidst more than two million Palestinians in occupied Arab lands posed a "human problem that must be addressed."

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Israeli supreme court allows sleep deprivation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's supreme court on Sunday authorised the internal security agency Shin Bet to deprive a Palestinian prisoner of sleep in attempt to get information from him on alleged preparations for extremist attacks.

The court allowed Shin Bet interrogators to keep Khader Mubarak, said to be a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), awake and his head in a sack, court officials said.

The interrogators, for their part, promised not to further tighten the prisoner's handcuffs or keep him in a painful position.

Mr. Mubarak, arrested last month, is accused of being a member of an armed Hamas branch that was planning attacks in Israel. He appealed to the supreme court last week to end the severe measures used in his interrogation.

The court was accused by an Israeli human rights association on Friday of giving free rein to Shin Bet to torture its Palestinian prisoners by allowing "heightened

physical pressure."

The supreme court on Thursday gave Shin Bet permission to use such pressure to interrogate a Palestinian prisoner suspected of planning extremist attacks.

The court said it had been convinced that the prisoner, Mohammad Adel Aziz Hamdan, held crucial information which would enable future disasters to be avoided.

The court said Mr. Hamdan's interrogators should not use methods that were against the law, but imposed no particular restrictions otherwise.

Israeli law allows for "moderate physical pressure" in questioning Palestinians and "heightened physical pressure" when the prisoner is suspected of having information on a possible attack.

Israeli security services have feared for some weeks that a new attack was imminent in revenge for the assassination in Malta of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shiqqi, presumably by Israeli agents, in October last year.

Peres denies he advised Arafat to stall on Hebron

TEL AVIV (AP) — By the end of the day, it was hard to see who was manipulating whom in Israel's latest political scandal involving the prime minister, the opposition leader and 10 rabbis.

It began Monday morning with a front-page story in the Yedioth Achronot daily.

Veteran journalist Shimon Shifter quoted people close to the prime minister as saying they had classified material showing that opposition leader Shimon Peres advised Yasser Arafat not to hurry to sign a deal on Israel's troop pullout from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Peres told the Palestinian leader that Benjamin Netanyahu was not trustworthy, and that it was best to get everything in writing and in detail from the new Israeli prime minister, Mr. Shifter wrote.

Mr. Netanyahu denied he had such material. Arafat's spokesman denied Mr. Peres had counselled the Palestinian leader to be careful and slow down the

talks. And an angry Peres said he was the victim of political slander and compared himself to Alfred Dreyfus, the French army officer who was falsely accused of treason, convicted and later exonerated.

"This is an unprecedented scandal, like Dreyfus in France," Mr. Peres told Israel radio in a telephone interview from Sweden where he was attending a seminar.

"Someone who calls himself a senior (cabinet) minister, and is a coward, a scoundrel and a liar, grabs a journalist, tells him a story under anonymity. The journalist protects him," Mr. Peres said.

Members of Mr. Peres' Labour Party accused Mr. Netanyahu's associates of spreading false claims to blacken Mr. Peres' name.

"If it didn't come out of his (Netanyahu's) immediate circle, it came from very legitimate circles around the prime minister," said

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Imran Khan gets a boy

LONDON (AFP) —

Jemima Khan, wife of former Pakistan cricket hero Imran Khan, gave birth to a healthy boy on Sunday at the Portland Hospital, London, a spokesman for the family said. Imran Khan and Jemima's mother, Annabel Goldsmith, wife of the billionaire financier and politician James Goldsmith, were present at the birth of the 3.15-kilogramme baby. "It was a healthy pregnancy and birth, it was totally normal in every respect. The family are delighted," said a family spokesman.

Moore, Dalton and Brosnan remember Broccoli

LONDON (AP) — Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan were on hand Sunday for a posthumous homage to Albert "Chubby" Broccoli, the U.S. producer who brought Ian Fleming's super spy James Bond to the silver screen. Broccoli produced 17 Bond pictures and more than 30 other films, including the musical "Chitty Chitty BangBang." He died in June at 87 and was honoured at the Odeon Cinema in Leicester Square. Two other actors have played the suave, sexy agent 007 — Sean Connery, who began it all, and George Lazenby, who played the Bond role only once, in 1969. "On Her Majesty's Secret Service."

Fergie says lover hit her

LONDON (AP) — Piling on revelations, the Duchess of York said in a newspaper interview Sunday that former lover John Bryan hit her and tore up her diary. "Nanny (of her daughters) used to sit outside sometimes on the stairs and be frightened by all the screaming," the former Sarah Ferguson was quoted as saying in a London weekly, the Independent on Sunday. The interview was the latest in a round of public soul-baring, mostly on U.S. television last week, that has brought Fergie's poor image in Britain to a new low. "Bryan" tore up my diary and threw it around the room," said Fergie, describing a scene in March 1995. "I wouldn't let him look at it. He hit me. I had bruises all down my arms because I held them up to defend myself. I don't think any woman in the world likes to be hit and I certainly don't." The duchess, who is heavily in debt, and Prince Andrew, the queen's second son, divorced in May after 10 years of marriage. She has published a book telling her own story.

Alberto Agnelli weds

MONTEPOLI (AP) — Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, heir apparent to the Fiat industrial giant, wed Avery Frances Howe in a small ceremony inside the chapel in the family's 16th century Tuscan villa near Pisa. About 30 people, including family patriarch Giovanni Agnelli, attended Saturday's wedding, performed by Pisa Archbishop Alessandro Pionti. A score of private guards and paramilitary police kept photographers and onlookers from approaching the grounds. Ms. Howe, 31, an architect who has American and British citizenship, met Mr. Agnelli, 32, while they were undergraduates at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. A spokesman said honeymoon plans were still up in the air.

London plays dov

LONDON (AFP) — The Foreign Office has played a dovish role in the Middle East peace process, according to a report in the Sunday Times. The report says the Foreign Office has been "too cautious" in its approach to the peace process, and that it has been "too slow" to take action against the Palestinians. The report also says that the Foreign Office has been "too soft" on the Israelis, and that it has been "too willing" to accept their demands.

King of Jordan will p Kingdom wil

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan opened the 10th session of the Jordanian Parliament on Tuesday. The King delivered a speech from the Throne, in which he urged the members of the Parliament to work for the development of the country and the well-being of its people.

The King also addressed the economic situation of the country, and the need for the government to take measures to improve it. He also mentioned the importance of maintaining good relations with the Arab states and the international community.

The King's speech was well-received by the members of the Parliament, who responded with applause. The session ended with the singing of the national anthem.

The King will be in Jordan for the next few days, before travelling to Amman. He is expected to return to Jordan on Friday.

The King's visit to the Parliament is part of his regular duties as the head of state of Jordan. He is also the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The King's speech was broadcast on television and radio, and was also published in the Jordanian press.

The King's visit to the Parliament is a significant event in the Jordanian political calendar. It is a chance for the King to address the nation and to reaffirm his commitment to the people of Jordan.

The King's speech was a message of hope and confidence for the people of Jordan. It was a message that the King was committed to the development and progress of his country.

The King's visit to the Parliament was a success. It was a chance for the King to connect with his people and to show them that he was listening to their concerns.

The King's speech was a model of leadership. It was a speech that was clear, concise, and inspiring. It was a speech that showed the King's wisdom and his commitment to his people.

The King's visit to the Parliament was a historic moment. It was a moment that showed the King's strength and his ability to lead his people.

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